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Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998

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Resolutions

1998/3

Review of the regional commissions by the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to conduct a review of the regional commissions,

Noting that the Economic Commission for Europe, at its fifty-third session, considered a note by the Executive Secretary on relations with other regional, subregional and global organizations and institutions[1] and a report on operational activities and cooperation with subregional groupings, interests and initiatives,[2]

Recalling the principles governing the relationship of the Economic Commission for Europe with other bodies as set forth in chapter IV of its Plan of Action,[3]

1. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and other bodies according to complementarities in terms of mandates, membership and approaches to issues of common concern;

2. *Stresses* that in order to ensure synergies and coherence, as well as to avoid duplication and inconsistencies, these relationships should be based on regular exchange of information in common areas of work and on mutual recognition and use of the expertise and experience available in each organization and should lead to joint activities, as appropriate;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of dialogue among the secretariats of institutions and of consistent messages by Governments in different forums in order to maximize cooperation among institutions;

4. *Recognizes* that the Commission has acquired over the years considerable knowledge of countries with economies in transition and has developed long-standing working relationships with those countries in the areas of its expertise;

5. *Stresses* that, in responding to the specific needs of the region, the Commission has two core functions: the development and harmonization of legal instruments, norms and standards in its areas of expertise, and the production of statistics and analyses in those areas;

6. *Welcomes* the involvement of interested non-member States in the development and adoption of norms established by the Commission as well as the interest of other regions in using these norms and in adapting them to their concerns and needs;

7. *Emphasizes* that the technical assistance activities of the Commission are limited in scale and are undertaken in support of the functions mentioned in paragraph 5 above, and are directed in particular towards countries with economies in transition;

8. *Stresses* that the Commission also has the role of bringing the contribution of the region to the global level and facilitating the implementation of international commitments in the region with respect to its areas of work;

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[1] E/ECE/1362.

[2] E/ECE/1359 and Corr.1.

[3] E/ECE/1347 and Corr.1; see also *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 16* (E/1997/36), annex IV.

9. *Takes note* of the information on the relationships that the Commission has built up with other organizations in its areas of cooperation.[4]

35th plenary meeting
20 July 1998

1998/4
Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1992/289 of 31 July 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993–2002,

Noting the implementation efforts made during the first half of the Decade by many countries and areas in the Asia and Pacific region, including progress in the adoption of equalization legislation, as well as the intercountry meetings hosted by the Governments of India, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines on critical issues in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993–2002[5] related to assistive devices, non-handicapping environments, multisectoral collaboration and national coordination,

Welcoming the Seoul Proposals for the Second Half of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons adopted by the Meeting of Senior Officials to Mark the Mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993–2002, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in September 1997,

Expressing its appreciation to the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific for pioneering collaborative inter-organizational action for the Decade,

Noting the need for a stronger regional impetus to support national and local endeavours in the second half of the Decade,

1. *Requests* the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage intergovernmental organizations to support its implementation in order to assist in addressing equalization issues faced by the majority of the world's disabled persons, including disabled women and disabled children, who live in the Asia and Pacific region;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific:

(a) To intensify multisectoral collaborative action towards the fulfilment of the targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993–2002, adopted by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, in April 1993;[6]

(b) To contribute to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific technical cooperation trust fund for the Decade to meet capacity-building needs for information and technical assistance in multisectoral collaboration among diverse sectors, in support of the fulfilment of the targets for the Decade;

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[4] See E/ECE/1359 and Corr.1 and E/ECE/1362.

[5] E/ESCAP/902, annex II.

[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 16* (E/1993/36), chap. IV, resolution 49/6.

3. *Also urges* all Governments that have not yet signed the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region[7] to do so before the next regional meeting to review the progress of the Decade, to be held in 1999;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to strengthen secretariat assistance to members and associate members by taking the following action:

(*a*) Harnessing the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat of the Commission to enhance sensitivity to disabilities – that is, by the inclusion of persons with disabilities and/or the consideration of the impact thereof on disability-related concerns – as a performance criterion of the secretariat's overall technical assistance, on a par with other criteria, such as gender sensitivity and relevance to development needs in the countries and areas of the region;

(*b*) Examining resource allocations within the secretariat, with a view to undertaking the adjustments required to enhance secretariat support for disability-related action;

(*c*) Mobilizing resources to continually replenish the technical cooperation trust fund for the Decade for the purposes of documentation, exchanges and field visits, and to disseminate good practices in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Decade, giving special attention to the enhancement of knowledge and skills among persons with disabilities and the equal participation of disabled women and girls;

(*d*) Generating practical guidelines for advancing equal access by disabled persons to mainstream development opportunities, by organizing and following up on two regional meetings in 1999, in close collaboration with other members of the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns, on the following topics:

(*i*) Education and technology for the specific needs of disabled children and youth;

(*ii*) Implementation of the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[8] and fulfilment of the targets for the Decade;

(*e*) Exploring the means of organizing, by the end of 2002, a high-level regional meeting to consider the lessons learned from national and area efforts towards the fulfilment of the targets for the Decade, so as to lay a solid foundation for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream society into the twenty-first century;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, with emphasis on follow-up action to reinforce the impact of the above-mentioned regional meetings, and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, concerning continuous secretariat action to improve the opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in the development process, until 2003, when the overall endeavours of the Decade will be reviewed as a separate agenda item at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, to provide a basis for further action in the new millennium.

35th plenary meeting
20 July 1998

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[7] E/ESCAP/902, annex I.

[8] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

1998/5

Relationships between the Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations agencies and regional and subregional organizations in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa, as adopted by the Council in resolution 671 A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, and as amended in its resolutions 974 D I (XXXVI) of 5 July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Recalling also the various resolutions that have implications for the mandate and operations of the Commission including, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, 33/202 of 29 January 1979, 44/211 of 22 December 1989 and 50/120 of 20 December 1995,

Recalling further Commission resolutions 718 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 on the revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the regional commission for Africa,[9] 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 on strengthening the Commission to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s,[10] 779 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994 on strengthening the operational capacity of the Commission[11] and 809 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996 on new directions for the Commission,[12]

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990 and 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, as well as Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992, in the annex to which the Assembly stated that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and that those located in developing countries should be strengthened in the context of the overall objectives of the restructuring and the revitalization process,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", in which the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with Member States and appropriate intergovernmental regional bodies, to conduct a general review of the regional commissions at its substantive session of 1998, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and the individual reviews each commission had already carried out, in order to consider the competencies of the regional commissions, taking into account the competencies of global bodies and other regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies,

Having examined the note by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa entitled "Reforms of the regional commissions: relationships between the Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations agencies, regional and subregional organizations in Africa",[13]

1. *Welcomes* the note by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* of the observations and analyses contained in the note;

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[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 16* (E/1991/37), chap. IV.

[10] Ibid., *1992, Supplement No. 13* (E/1992/33), chap. IV.

[11] Ibid., *1994, Supplement No. 20* (E/1994/40), chap. IV.

[12] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 15* (E/1996/35), chap. IV.

[13] E/ECA/MFC.1/2.

3. *Decides* to adopt the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1. Reaffirm and support existing coordination mechanisms at the regional level

An important first step in enhancing collaboration between the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations agencies is to reaffirm and support the team leadership role assigned to the regional commissions by the General Assembly in resolution 32/197. The agencies should use the mechanism of a regional administrative committee on coordination, first suggested in 1994 by the Secretary-General. The Economic and Social Council should consider providing a legislative directive to this effect. The regional administrative committee on coordination would be a useful mechanism for addressing a number of regional issues, including follow-up to the global conferences and programmes on post-conflict reconstruction developments in Africa. In this regard, the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of Ministers, to be held in 1999, should consider in-depth coordination and collaboration among United Nations agencies operating at the subregional and regional levels in Africa.

Recommendation 2. Adopt some principles for regional coordination

The United Nations agencies in Africa should adopt some principles for regional coordination. The agencies should endeavour to foster regional coordination on the basis of promoting greater exchange of information on planned and ongoing work; improve complementarities among programmes; draw on each other's competencies; and bring the pool of resources – financial and human – at their disposal to bear on policy issues of common interest.

Recommendation 3. Strengthen coordination at the subregional level

Coordination or collaboration among United Nations agencies in Africa should also be enhanced at the subregional level. At that level, this should take the form of the development of joint ventures to support the specific activities of countries in a subregional framework. In this way, the complementarities and harmony sought at the regional level will be given greater impact and impetus. The Subregional Development Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa should be an important vehicle for coordination at the subregional level.

Recommendation 4. The role of the Economic Commission for Africa in normative and operational functions

The Economic Commission for Africa, as a United Nations regional commission and as one of the regional institutions in the service of the development of Africa, has carried out valuable normative (analysis, advocacy, norm-setting) and operational activities that have been mutually complementary and supportive to the member States of the region. The Commission should continue to undertake both categories of activities, it being recognized that its technical assistance plays a catalytic role in translating its normative work into concrete support for the development efforts of member States.

Recommendation 5. Enhanced cooperation among African organizations

At the regional level, there is already implicit specialization and division of labour among Africa's three major intergovernmental organizations: the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. There remains, however, a need to promote a more clear-cut division of responsibilities, and to rationalize and strengthen complementarities among the three organizations more strictly, according to their mandates and competencies, as a means of increasing their combined effectiveness, impact and efficiency in their collective mandate – to oversee the overall development of Africa at the regional level. This calls for these African organizations to strengthen their joint secretariat by implementing among themselves similar strategies as outlined above for the United Nations system. In particular, they should:

(*a*) Strengthen coordination, including collaboration in programme development, planning of activities, monitoring and evaluation, geared to building upon and exploiting complementarities;

(*b*) Improve networking and communications at all staff levels, not only at the level of chief executive;

(*c*) Work to establish a common ethos among their staff, based on a common perspective of Africa's political, social and economic development challenges and opportunities, and a common zeal to move Africa forward;

(*d*) Streamline and coordinate their intergovernmental machineries: the governing bodies of all African organizations could be required to summarize, in a joint report, their main decisions for submission to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, which is the supreme organ of the African Economic Community.

35th plenary meeting
20 July 1998

1998/6
Revision of the medium-term plan, 1998–2001, of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the note by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa on the first revision to the medium-term plan, 1998–2001,[14]

Recalling Commission resolution 809 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996, in which the Commission endorsed the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, in the context of the new directions for the Commission,[15]

Also recalling Commission resolutions 810 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996[16] and 828 (XXXII) of 8 May 1997,[17] in which the Commission called, respectively, for the strengthening of the former Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and for their transformation into Subregional Development Centres with an extended programme and policy orientation, as well as resolution 824 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996 entitled "Follow-up to the Dakar and Beijing conferences: implementation of the global and regional platforms for action for the advancement of women",[18]

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[14] E/ECA/MFC 1/3.

[15] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 15* (E/1996/35), chap. IV.

[16] Ibid.

[17] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 17* (E/1997/37), chap. IV.

[18] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 15* (E/1996/35), chap. IV.

Endorses the revision to the medium-term plan, 1998–2001, involving the establishment of two new subprogrammes: "Promoting the advancement of women" and "Supporting subregional activities for development".

35th plenary meeting
20 July 1998

1998/7

Importance of population census activities for evaluation of progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1995/7 of 19 July 1995 in which it urged Member States to carry out population and housing censuses during the period 1995–2004,

Taking into account the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its nineteenth session, 10–12 February 1998,[19] which, *inter alia,* addressed the prospects for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses,

Emphasizing the importance of up-to-date population and housing census information for implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[20] at the country level and for decision-making by Governments on a wide range of policy issues,

Mindful of the technical limitations of sample surveys as vehicles for the collection of data on adult mortality, and recognizing that methods exist for the collection of data on deaths in households in the course of a population census,

1. *Invites* Governments to give priority to the planning and undertaking of the next population and housing census;

2. *Recommends* that countries lacking adequate vital statistics systems give due consideration to the collection and analysis of data in the 2000 round of population censuses for the estimation of levels of mortality;

3. *Calls upon* relevant organizations of the United Nations system, donor Governments, through multilateral and bilateral mechanisms, and non-governmental organizations to provide the necessary support to those countries in need in respect of undertaking such censuses, including the building of national capacity in this field.

40th plenary meeting
23 July 1998

1998/8

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/188 of 18 December 1997 on population and development,

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[19] E/CN.3/1999/20

[20] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Noting the work being done by the relevant United Nations bodies and the proposed outline of the United Nations Secretariat for the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the quinquennial review and appraisal of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[21] while bearing in mind the views expressed by Member States at the thirty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development,

Stressing the need to ensure that the review of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development will be a coordinated process which reinvigorates and strengthens efforts at the local, national and international levels to fully implement the Programme of Action,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Secretariat to prepare, as soon as possible and no later than the end of June 1998, and to make available to States a comprehensive plan, including a timetable, for the preparatory process of inter-agency consultations, technical meetings and round-table meetings, including those at the regional level, setting out the purpose, working methods and key anticipated outcomes of each and how they will contribute to the review and appraisal report. In preparing this plan, the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund should work closely together, as they did in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, and in consultation, as appropriate, with other relevant bodies, and hold regular briefings for States;

2. *Requests* that the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to be coordinated by the Population Division, the report of the international forum on the operational review of the Programme of Action to be coordinated by the United Nations Population Fund, and the draft report of the Secretary-General for the special session of the General Assembly on the further implementation of the Programme of Action to be coordinated also by the Population Fund, all of which are to be prepared for the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-second session, should focus on, *inter alia*:

(*a*) Analysis of key successes and constraints as well as lessons learned in developing effective strategies and actions in the implementation of the Programme of Action and changes in policy, programmes and resource allocations at the national and international levels towards a more comprehensive achievement of the goals of the Conference;

(*b*) Strengthening coordination throughout the United Nations system and among the United Nations system, Governments and other actors, such as the multilateral development banks and civil society;

(*c*) Domestic, bilateral and multilateral resources made available as of 31 December 1998; estimates of resources expected to be made available as of 31 December 1999; examples of effective and efficient use made of available resources, and circumstances for improving the environment, with a view to increased financial support from the international community for population and development activities;

(*d*) Methodology and mechanisms for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

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[21] Ibid.

3. *Decides* that the length of the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development shall be extended to seven working days in March 1999.

40th plenary meeting
23 July 1998

1998/9
Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[22] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[23] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[24] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[25] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[26] the Beijing Declaration[27] and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[28] and other instruments of human rights and international humanitarian law,

Deeply concerned by the continuing and substantiated reports of violations of the human rights of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, particularly in areas under control of the Taliban, resulting, *inter alia*, in restrictions upon movement, denial of equal access of women to health care, prohibition of most forms of female employment, restrictions upon education for women and girls, the closing of girls' schools, and severe limitations upon the enrolment of females in institutions of higher education and upon their access to humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in particular his special focus on violations of the human rights of women and girls, especially in territories under the control of the Taliban faction,

Welcoming also the decision of the Secretary-General to send a gender mission to Afghanistan, hoping that it will serve as a model for future efforts to address the gender dimension of crisis/conflict situations, and encouraging the Secretary-General to continue to send such high-level missions, when appropriate,

Taking into account the report of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on her visit to Afghanistan in November 1997,

Expressing its appreciation for the international community's support of and solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan, being supportive of the women of Afghanistan who protest violations of their human rights, and encouraging women and men worldwide to continue efforts to draw attention to their situation and to promote the immediate restoration of their ability to enjoy their human rights,

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[22] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[23] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[24] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

[25] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[26] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[27] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[28] Ibid., annex II.

1. *Condemns* the continuing violations of the human rights of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, in all areas of Afghanistan;

2. *Calls upon* all parties within Afghanistan to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect international humanitarian law;

3. *Strongly urges* all of the Afghan factions to end discriminatory policies and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of women and men, including their rights to full and equal participation in the life of the country, freedom of movement, access to education and health facilities, employment outside the home, personal security, and freedom from intimidation and harassment, with special respect to the implications of discriminatory policies for the distribution of aid;

4. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates gender concerns and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and human rights;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the ad hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender in Afghanistan under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and encourages Member States to make particular efforts to promote the human rights of women in Afghanistan;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that reports of future gender missions are made available to the Commission on the Status of Women.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/10
Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation of Palestinian women and assistance provided by organizations of the United Nations system,[29]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[30] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action[31] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,

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[29] E/CN.6/1998/2/Add.2.

[30] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[31] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling also its resolution 1997/16 of 21 July 1997 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[32] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Concerned about the stalemate facing the Middle East peace process, including the lack of implementation of the agreements reached in Washington, D.C., between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel, and the deterioration of the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli positions and measures,

Concerned also about the continuing difficult situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities, as well as the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for the situation of Palestinian women and their families, resulting from the frequent closures and isolation of the occupied territory,

1. *Stresses* its support for the Middle East peace process and the need for speedy and full implementation of the agreements already reached between the parties;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[33] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention of 1907[34] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[35] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties in the occupied Palestinian territory, in compliance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Urges* Member States, financial organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women for the creation of projects responding to their needs, especially during the transitional period;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action;

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[32] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[33] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[34] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[35] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-third session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/11

Mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, including the status of women in the Secretariat

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996–2001, and the comments of the Commission on the Status of Women contained in Commission resolution 40/10 and the annex thereto,[36]

Noting with concern that a number of obstacles have been encountered in the implementation of the plan,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the mid-term review of the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996–2001[37] and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the plan are dealt with effectively, in particular through heightened accountability at all levels, particularly that of senior managers, and by including the necessary training, where appropriate;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for continued efforts by all areas of the United Nations system to implement the plan fully;

4. *Stresses in particular* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the formulation and implementation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, notably at the country level;

5. *Welcomes* the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, particularly its coordination and catalytic role in the area of gender mainstreaming, policy analysis and operational activities in the work programmes of the bodies of the United Nations system, and its work in compiling good practices, guidelines and indicators in the area of gender mainstreaming;

6. *Urges* Member States, when considering the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, to fully integrate a gender perspective into those activities;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Development Group to institute guidelines and procedures for the implementation of relevant aspects of the Beijing Platform for Action

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[36] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6* (E/1996/26), chap. I, sect. C.2, resolution 40/10.

[37] E/CN.6/1998/3.

adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women[38] into the planning and preparing of the operational activities for development of United Nations funds and programmes;

8. *Recommends* that gender equality and women's empowerment goals be integrated into the continuing United Nations reform process, including in the work of the executive committees and, in that regard, reaffirms the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000 in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D-1 level and above, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and also taking into account the lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/12
Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action

The Economic and Social Council

Endorses the following conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women with respect to the four critical areas of concern addressed by the commission at its forty-second session:

I. Violence against women

The Commission on the Status of Women

Reaffirms the Beijing Platform for Action,[39] notably chapter IV.D on violence against women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[40] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[41]

Requests States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to take into account in their initial and periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, general recommendation 19 on violence against women, adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session,[42] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

Requests States parties to international human rights treaties to compile information and report on the extent and manifestations of violence against women, including domestic violence and harmful traditional practices, and the measures taken to eliminate such violence, for inclusion in reports under the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and to include such information in reports to other treaty bodies;

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[38] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[39] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[40] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[41] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[42] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/47/38), chap. I.

Proposes, in order to accelerate the implementation of the strategic objectives of chapter IV.D:

A. An integrated, holistic approach

Actions to be taken by Governments and the international community:

- Formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies, which will be widely disseminated, to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and provide for targets, timetables for implementation and effective domestic enforcement procedures by monitoring mechanisms, involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations;
- Call upon the international community to condemn and act against all forms and manifestations of terrorism, in particular those that affect women and children;
- Develop strong and effective national, regional and international cooperation to prevent and eliminate trafficking in women and girls, especially for purposes of economic and sexual exploitation, including the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls;
- Encourage the media to take measures against the projection of images of violence against women and children;
- Strengthen effective partnerships with non-governmental organizations and all relevant agencies to promote an integrated and holistic approach to the elimination of violence against women and girls;
- Integrate effective actions to end violence against women into all areas of public and private life, as a means of working to overcome the violence and discrimination that women face because of such factors as race, language, ethnicity, poverty, culture, religion, age, disability and socio-economic class or because they are indigenous people, migrants, including women migrant workers, displaced women or refugees;
- Ensure that comprehensive programmes for the rehabilitation of victims of rape are integrated into global programmes.

B. Provision of resources to combat violence against all women

Actions to be taken by Government, non-governmental organizations and the public and private sector, as appropriate:

- Support the work of non-governmental organizations in their activities to prevent, combat and eliminate violence against women;
- Provide adequate resources for women's groups, helplines, crisis centres and other support services, including credit, medical, psychological and other counselling services, as well as focus on vocational skill training for women victims of violence that enables them to find a means of subsistence;
- Provide resources for the strengthening of legal mechanisms for prosecuting those who commit acts of violence against women and girls, and for the rehabilitation of victims;

- Support and encourage partnerships for the establishment of national networks and provide resources for shelters and relief support for women and girls, so as to offer a safe, sensitive and integrated response to women victims of violence, including the provision of programmes designed to heal victims of trafficking and rehabilitate them into society;
- Consider increasing contributions for national, regional and international action to combat violence against women, including for the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Trust Fund in Support of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;
- Develop special programmes that would assist women and girls with disabilities in recognizing and reporting acts of violence, including the provision of accessible support services for their protection and safety;
- Encourage and fund the training of personnel in the administration of justice, law enforcement agencies, security, social and health-care services, schools and migration authorities on matters related to gender-based violence, and its prevention, and the protection of women from violence;
- Include in national budgets adequate resources related to the elimination of violence against women and girls.

C. Creation of linkages and cooperation with regard to particular forms of violence against women

Actions to be taken by Governments:

- Consider, where appropriate, formulating bilateral, subregional and regional agreements to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers, especially women and girls;
- Develop bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements and protocols to combat all forms of trafficking in women and girls, and assist victims of violence resulting from prostitution and trafficking;
- Improve international information exchange on trafficking in women and girls by recommending the setting up of a data-collection centre within Interpol, regional law enforcement agencies and national police forces, as appropriate;
- Strengthen the implementation of all relevant human rights instruments in order to eliminate organized and other forms of trafficking in women and girls, including trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and of pornography;
- Strengthen gender focal points of the regional commissions, and further enhance their contributions to gender-balanced development policies, as they have already made significant contributions by helping Member States to build capacities and as regards gender-mainstreaming for alleviating gender-based violence against women, and have contributed actively to promoting the human rights of women.

D. Legal measures

Actions to be taken by Governments:

- Ensure the gender-sensitive development of an integrated framework that includes criminal, civil, evidentiary and procedural provisions and that addresses sufficiently the multiple forms of violence against women;
- Take all appropriate measures to develop an integrated and comprehensive legislative framework that addresses sufficiently the multiple forms of violence against women;
- Promote, where necessary, the harmonization of local legislation that penalizes acts of violence against women;
- Provide adequate infrastructure and support services to respond to the needs of the survivors of violence against women and girls, and to assist towards full recovery and reintegration into society, such as witness protection programmes, restraining order against perpetrators, crisis centres, telephone hotlines, shelters, provisions for economic support and livelihood assistance;
- Develop guidelines to ensure appropriate police and prosecutorial responses in cases of violence against women;
- Establish and support programmes that provide legal aid and assistance for women and girls bringing complaints relating to gender-based violence through various applicable ways and means, such as non-governmental organization support for women with claims relating to violence against women;
- Ensure the accountability of relevant law enforcement agencies for implementation of policies to protect women from gender-based violence;
- Investigate, and in accordance with national legislation, punish all acts of violence against women and girls, including those perpetrated by public officials;
- Implement strategies and practical measures, taking account of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted by the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997, and contained in the annex thereto;
- Review national legislation in order to effect complete legal prohibition of rape and all forms of violence against women and girls, such as domestic violence, including rape, and to ensure that legislation that protects women and girls from violence is effectively implemented;
- Criminalize all forms of trafficking in women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation and penalize all traffickers;
- Take steps to enable women who are victims of trafficking to make complaints to the police and to be available when required by the criminal justice system, and ensure that during this time women have access to social, medical, financial and legal assistance, and protection, as appropriate;
- Develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting harmful customary or traditional practices that are violations of women's and girls' human rights and obstacles to the full enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- Ensure that women are safe at work by supporting measures that promote the creation of a workplace environment free from sexual harassment or other violence and encourage all employers to put in place policies designed to eliminate and deal effectively with harassment of women whenever it occurs in the workplace;
- Encourage the participation of women in law enforcement agencies so as to achieve gender balance.

E. Research and gender-disaggregated data collection

Actions to be taken by Governments:

- Promote coordinated research on violence against women to ensure that it is multidisciplinary and addresses the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation;
- Encourage research aimed at exploring the nature, extent and causes of violence and collect data and statistics on its economic and social costs, and its consequences, and conduct research on the impact of all laws relevant to combating all forms of violence against women;
- Develop common definitions and guidelines and train relevant actors for the collection of data and statistics on violence against women and ensure that all cases of violence against women are recorded systematically and appropriately, whether they are first reported to the police or to health and social services;
- Sponsor community-based research and national surveys, including the collection of disaggregated data, on violence against women, with regard to particular groups of women, such as women with disabilities, migrant women workers and trafficked women;
- Support evaluations of the impact of measures and policies, particularly with regard to legislative, evidentiary and procedural law reform, to address violence against women with a view to identifying and exchanging good practices and lessons learned, and initiate intervention and prevention programmes;
- Promote the sharing of research results, including information on best practices at national, regional and international levels;
- Explore the possibility of mechanisms such as national rapporteurs, who report to Governments on the scale, prevention and combating of violence against women, particularly trafficking in women and girls.

Action to be taken by the United Nations:

- Consider ways to share good practices and lessons learned, including establishing a readily accessible database of good practices and lessons learned with regard to all forms of violence against women.

F. Change attitudes

Actions to be taken by Governments and civil society, including non-governmental organizations:

- Work to create violence-free societies by implementing participatory educational programmes on human rights, conflict resolution and gender equality, for women and men of all ages, beginning with girls and boys;
- Support programmes of peer mediation and conflict resolution for schoolchildren and special training for teachers to equip them to encourage cooperation and respect for diversity and gender;
- Encourage innovative education and training in schools to enhance awareness of gender-based violence by promoting non-violent conflict resolution, and short-, mid- and long-term strategic educational goals for achieving gender equality;
- Introduce and invest in comprehensive public awareness campaigns, such as "zero tolerance", that portray violence against women as unacceptable;
- Encourage the promotion in media portrayals of positive images of women and of men, presenting them as cooperative and full partners in the upbringing of their children, and discourage the media from presenting negative images of women and girls;
- Encourage the media to create positive images of women and men as cooperative and crucial actors in preventing violence against women through the development of voluntary international media codes of conduct, on positive images, portrayals and representations of women, and on the coverage of the reporting of violence against women;
- Raise awareness and mobilize public opinion to eliminate female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional, cultural or customary practices that violate the human rights of women and girls and negatively affect their health;
- Promote the responsible use of new information technologies, in particular the Internet, including the encouraging of steps to prevent the use of these technologies for discrimination and violence against women, and for trafficking in women for the purposes of sexual exploitation, including the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls;
- Create policies and programmes to encourage behavioural change in perpetrators of violence against women, including rape, and monitor and assess the impact and effect of such programmes;
- Establish legal literacy programmes to make women aware of their rights and the methods of seeking protection under the law;
- Recognize that women and girls with disabilities, women migrants and refugee women and girls could be particularly affected by violence, and encourage the development of programmes for their support;
- Encourage campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

- Encourage and support men's own initiatives to complement efforts of women's organizations to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls;
- Conduct research on, and create policies and programmes to change, the attitudes and behaviour of perpetrators of violence against women within family and society;
- Actively encourage, support and implement measures aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of violence against women, through gender analysis capacity-building and gender-sensitive training for law enforcement officers, police personnel, the judiciary, medical and social workers, and teachers.

II. Women and armed conflict

The Commission on the Status of Women

Reaffirms the Beijing Platform for Action,[43] notably chapter IV.E on women and armed conflict;

Proposes the following, taking into account the Commission's conclusions on human rights of women, violence against women and the girl child, in order to accelerate the implementation of the strategic objectives of chapter IV.E:

A. Ensuring gender-sensitive justice

Actions to be taken by Governments:

- Ensure that national legal systems provide accessible and gender-sensitive avenues of redress for victims of armed conflict;
- Ensure that a gender-sensitive perspective is integrated in the drafting and interpretation of international law and domestic legislation, including for the protection of women and girls in armed conflict;
- Support efforts to create an international criminal court that integrates a gender perspective in its statute and functioning, enabling a gender-sensitive interpretation and application of the statute;
- Provide and disseminate to the public in local languages, including to women's groups and non-governmental organizations, information on the jurisdiction and procedures for accessing the ad hoc war crimes tribunals, human rights treaty bodies and all other relevant mechanisms; this information should be widely and actively disseminated in cooperation with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;
- Protect children in situations of armed conflict, especially the girl child, against participation, recruitment, rape and sexual exploitation through adherence to the applicable principles of international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and national legislation;

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[43] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

- Promote a gender balance and gender expertise in all relevant international bodies, at all times, including the International Law Commission, the ad hoc war crimes tribunals and the human rights treaty bodies, having due regard for the principle of equitable geographical distribution;
- Examine and consider modifying existing legal definitions and standards to ensure that they encompass concerns of all women and girls affected by armed conflict, and, in particular, reaffirm that rape, systematic rape and sexual slavery in armed conflict constitute war crimes;
- Ensure that where crimes of sexual violence are committed in situations of conflict, all perpetrators, including those among United Nations and international peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel, are prosecuted.

B. Specific needs of women affected by armed conflict

Actions to be taken by Governments and international organizations:

- Collect and provide information on violations of the human rights of women under foreign occupation and take steps to ensure the full enjoyment of the human rights of these women;
- Take account of the impact of armed conflict on the health of all women and introduce measures to address the full range of women's health needs, including those of women with disabilities, and the psychological needs arising from trauma stemming from sexual abuses and the effects of violations of their rights;
- Address the specific needs and concerns of women refugees and displaced persons and ensure appropriate training for relevant bodies to address the specific needs and concerns of women refugees, who should receive special protection, including the proper design and location of camps and the adequate staffing of camps;
- Recognize the importance of fully involving women in designing rehabilitation policies in post-conflict situations and take steps to assist household economies, including the social and economic conditions of women-headed households and widows;
- Ensure the physical safety and security of all refugee women and girls and those internally displaced by, *inter alia*, adequately providing for and increasing their access to the right of return to their country or place of origin, and the participation of women in the committees responsible for the management of camp(s), and ensure that the camps are designed in accordance with the 1995 Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women[44] of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and arrange for gender-sensitive legal, social and medical services in camps, and for the talents and capabilities of refugee and displaced women and girls to be fully integrated in the development and implementation of these programmes while they are in such camps;
- Provide refugee victims of sexual violence and their families with adequate medical and psychosocial care, including culturally sensitive counselling, and ensure confidentiality;

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[44] Geneva, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 1995

- Take measures in accordance with international law with a view to alleviating any negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children;
- Mainstream a gender perspective, as appropriate, into national immigration and asylum policies, regulations and practices, in order to extend protection to those women whose claim for protection is based on gender-related persecution;
- Provide and strengthen assistance to all women and girls in conflict and post conflict situations, including through non-governmental organizations, as appropriate. Refugee women and men must have equal rights in the administration and distribution of goods and services in the camps;
- Condemn and bring to an immediate end massive violations of human rights, especially in the form of genocide, and ethnic cleansing as a strategy of war, and its consequences, such as rape, including systematic rape of women in war situations;
- Encourage rehabilitation centres to ensure that the knowledge and professions of displaced and refugee people are utilized;
- Mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian responses to crises and armed conflicts and into post-conflict reconstruction activities.

C. Increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping, peace-building, pre- and post-conflict decision-making, conflict prevention, post-conflict resolution and reconstruction

Actions to be taken by Governments and international and regional intergovernmental institutions:

- Increase, including through measures of affirmative action, women's participation and leadership in decision-making and in preventing conflict;
- Mainstream a gender perspective into peace-promoting activities at all levels as well as humanitarian and peace-building policies, including through gender analysis and the encouragement of the participation of more female personnel at all levels, in particular at senior or high levels in field missions, and monitor and review such policies as appropriate, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution where applicable;
- Recognize and support women's non-governmental organizations, particularly at the grass-roots level, in respect of their preventing conflict, including early warning and peace-building;
- Take note of the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace,[45] as well as the post-Beijing follow-up Kigali Declaration on Peace, Gender and Development,[46] and A Plan of Action for Conflict-affected Areas,[47] and, if appropriate, convene conferences to assess progress and promote implementation;
- Regional research and training institutes should carry out research on the role of women in conflict resolution and identify and analyse policies and action programmes;

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[45] Document E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.XV/94/7, April 1994.

[46] A/52/720, annex, sect. 4.

[47] Ibid., sect. 3.

- Create mechanisms to encourage more women candidates with the appropriate qualificat [illegible] to apply for judicial, prosecutorial and other positions in all relevant international bodies, in order to achieve gender balance on the basis of equitable geographical distribution;
- Nominate and appoint more women as special representatives in conflict resolution, taking due consideration of the principle of equitable geographical distribution;
- Enhance the role of women in bilateral preventive diplomacy efforts as well as those undertaken by the United Nations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
- Ensure that the participants in humanitarian missions and in peacekeeping operations, both military and civilian, are given specific gender-sensitive training;
- Develop and implement innovative strategies to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and invite the Secretary-General to analyse their effectiveness in his reports on peacekeeping operations, if appropriate, based on an expert group meeting;
- Mainstream a gender perspective into bilateral and multilateral peace-building discussions and promotion of social development.

D. Preventing conflict and promoting a culture of peace

Actions to be taken by Governments, the international community and civil society, as appropriate:

- Integrate a gender perspective into foreign policies and adjust policies accordingly;
- Support the establishment of women-for-peace networks;
- Discourage the adoption of and refrain from any unilateral measure that is not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being and that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights;
- Ensure that education, including teacher training, promotes peace, respect for human rights and gender-sensitivity, tolerance for diversity, including cultural and religious diversity, and pluralism;
- Encourage the incorporation of relevant international humanitarian law principles and their interpretation from a gender perspective into national legal systems;
- Encourage and support the participation of young people in programmes, seminars and workshops on conflict resolution and human rights, negotiations for the peaceful settlement of disputes and the importance of a gender perspective in the promotion of a culture of peace, development and human rights of women;
- Strengthen ongoing efforts to train international peacekeeping forces on human rights and gender-sensitivity, provide training on codes of conduct and prevention of violence against women, ensuring that trainers include civilians, women and experts in gender issues, and monitor the impact of this training;
- Enhance the culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts, including through mass media, audio and video as appropriate;

- Draw upon and utilize the expertise of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Children's Fund for the preparation of materials for the training of United Nations peacekeepers;
- Continue to make resources available nationally and internationally for prevention of conflict and ensure women's participation in the elaboration and implementation of strategies for preventing conflict;
- Recognize and support the work done by national machineries for the advancement of women and by non-governmental organizations and work towards mobilizing the action necessary to encourage the achievement by women of a critical mass at the national cabinet level in key ministries and departments and in international organizations that make or influence policy with regard to matters related to collective peace and security.

Actions to be taken by the United Nations:

- Acknowledge and support the vital work of non-governmental organizations in the field of peace in efforts towards preventing conflict and for peace-building;
- Organize programmes and seminars to sensitize community leaders and women on the important role that women should play in developing a culture of peace in society.

E. Disarmament measures, illicit arms trafficking, landmines and small arms

Actions to be taken by Governments:

- In order to alleviate the suffering of women and children caused by landmines, work towards the objective of eliminating anti-personnel landmines; and in this regard take due note of the conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and its implementation by those States that become parties to it;
- Join international efforts to elaborate international policies to prohibit illicit traffic, trade and transfer of small arms, and to control their excessive production, with a view to alleviating the suffering of women and children in the situation of armed conflict;
- Provide landmine awareness campaigns or classes in close cooperation with communities and community leaders formally and informally, making them accessible to women in afflicted areas, and provide resources and assistance for landmine clearance and share technology and information so that local populations can engage effectively in the safe clearance of landmines;
- Support programmes for the rehabilitation and social integration of women victims of anti-personnel landmines, and demining and mine awareness activities;
- Encourage as appropriate the role of women in the peace movement, working towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control including disarmament of all types of weapons of mass destruction;
- Work to prevent and put an end to aggression and all forms of armed conflict, thereby promoting a culture of peace.

III. Human rights of women

The Commission on the Status of Women

Reaffirms the Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[48] in particular chapter IV.I on the human rights of women, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights;[49]

Recommends that the Commission on Human Rights give particular attention to the economic and social rights of women in any discussions it may have at its fifty-fourth session on the question of the appointment and mandate of a special rapporteur on economic, social and cultural rights, or a specific aspect thereof; and invites the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women in 1999 on decisions taken by the Commission on Human Rights on this issue, and further recommends that the rapporteur on economic, social and cultural rights, if appointed, should make his or her reports available to the Commission on the Status of Women;

Proposes, in order to accelerate the implementation of the strategic objectives of chapter IV.I of the Platform for Action:

A. Creation and development of an environment conducive to women's enjoyment of their human rights and awareness-raising

Actions to be taken by Governments, non-governmental organizations, employers, trade unions, the private sector and other actors in civil society, as appropriate:

- Ensure universal awareness by all persons, women and men, girls and boys of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children, including the girl child, through comprehensive human rights education in accordance with the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, and create and promote a culture of human rights, development and peace;
- Encourage and support broad-based national and community-based dialogues that include women and men, and girls and boys, from diverse backgrounds, on the meaning of human rights, on the obligations thereby created and on gender-specific discrimination and violations;
- Ensure that work, including, inter alia, work by treaty bodies within their mandates to develop an understanding of the gender dimensions of human rights, is compiled and widely disseminated, and that this gender-sensitive interpretation of human rights is fully integrated into all policies and programmes of international and regional organizations;
- Make widely available reports of United Nations mechanisms that deal with the human rights of women, such as on discrimination and violence against women, to the public, including the judiciary, parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations;
- Support, encourage and disseminate research, and collect gender- and age-disaggregated statistics on factors and multiple barriers that affect the full enjoyment by women of their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, including their

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[48] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[49] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

right to development, and on violations that are particular to women, and disseminate the findings and utilize the collected data in assessing the implementation of the human rights of women;

- Develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting customary and traditional practices that are harmful to women and that are violations of women's human rights;
- Eradicate customary or traditional practices, particularly female genital mutilation, that are harmful to, or discriminatory against, women and that are violations of women's human rights and fundamental freedoms, through the design and implementation of awareness-raising programmes, education and training;
- Ensure that their personnel periodically receive gender training and are educated and made aware of all women's, men's and children's human rights;
- Mobilize the resources necessary and create the conditions for the full exercise of women's economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights;
- Establish and strengthen partnerships and cooperation with each other and with the United Nations system and regional organizations in order to promote more actively the full enjoyment by women of their human rights;
- Ensure that indigenous and other marginalized women's special conditions are taken fully into consideration within the framework of the human rights of women;
- Mainstream a gender perspective, as appropriate, into national immigration and asylum policies, regulations and practices in order to extend protection to those women whose claim for protection is based on gender-related persecution.

B. Legal and regulatory framework

Actions to be taken by Governments:

- Guarantee the existence of a national legal and regulatory framework, including independent national institutions, or other appropriate mechanisms, that ensure the full realization of all human rights of women and girls on the basis of equality and non-discrimination, including their right to be free from violence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments related to human rights and international law;
- Take steps, including a gender-sensitive review of national legislation, to revoke any laws or legal procedures and eradicate practices – national or customary – that promote discrimination on the basis of sex;
- Ensure that women and children have full and equal access to effective legal remedies for violations, including domestic mechanisms, which are monitored and revised to ensure that they function without discrimination, and international mechanisms that address human rights as provided, *inter alia*, under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[50]
- Promote changes that ensure that women enjoy equal opportunities in law and in practice to claim their rights through national legal systems, including through educating them on these rights as well as ensuring availability of measures such as

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[50] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

free or affordable legal aid, legal representation and court appeals procedures, and support existing programmes of non-governmental organizations and other agencies.

C. Policies, mechanisms and machineries

Actions to be taken by Governments:

- Ratify and accede to and ensure implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[51] so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000;
- Limit the extent of any reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible; ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law and regularly review those reservations with a view to withdrawing them; and withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;
- Create channels of communication to promote information exchange between national institutions that address the human rights of women, and non-governmental organizations and relevant policy-making bodies of Government;
- Create gender mainstreaming mechanisms within all policy-making bodies so that women's ability to enjoy their rights is strengthened by all policies and programmes, including through gender-sensitive budgeting;
- Support efforts to create an international criminal court that integrates a gender perspective in its statute and functioning, enabling a gender-sensitive interpretation and application of the statute;
- Mainstream a gender perspective into all economic and social policies in order to promote the human rights of women and girls, including their right to development;
- Adopt measures to ensure by appropriate means that women enjoy equal opportunities to participate in decision-making processes, including parliamentary and other elected assemblies.

Actions to be taken by States parties to human rights instruments:

- Promote gender balance in the nomination and election of independent experts to treaty bodies having expertise and sensitivity in regard to gender issues in the field of human rights, giving due consideration to equitable geographical distribution and different legal systems;
- Take note of the report of the United Nations Secretariat to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[52] and encourage similar studies by other treaty bodies, as well as by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, especially with respect to their effect on women's and girls' enjoyment of their human rights;

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[51] Ibid.

[52] CEDAW/C/1997/4.

- Ensure that their periodic reports to treaty monitoring bodies mainstream a gender perspective.

Within the United Nations system:

- Urge the Commission on Human Rights to ensure that all human rights mechanisms and procedures fully incorporate a gender perspective in their work, within their respective mandates;
- The Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality should, as planned, conduct a workshop to clarify the understanding of a rights-based approach to women's empowerment and advancement and to gender equality, drawing on the work already being done in this regard by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and others;
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat should strengthen and improve coordination in general human rights activities within their respective mandates and continue to prepare the joint annual work plan;
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women should continue to prepare the joint annual work plan and strengthen cooperation and coordination in human rights activities, in particular:

  (a) By collaborating in the writing of reports for the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights, the first initiative of this type[53] being welcomed;

  (b) Through sharing information systematically on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, its sessions and documentation, in order to ensure that its work will be better integrated into the work of the other treaty bodies and United Nations human rights activities;

  (c) Through capacity-building to implement agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council[54] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in particular training and gender-sensitization especially of human rights monitors;
- Take further steps to increase cooperation and promote integration of objectives and goals among the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as well as the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations funds and programmes;
- Cooperation, communication and exchange of expertise should be enhanced between the Commission on the Status of Women and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Human Rights, in order to more effectively promote women's human rights;

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[53] E/CN.4/1998/22-E/CN.6/1998/11.

[54] See A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

- The treaty bodies within their mandates should continue to promote a better understanding of the rights contained in international human rights instruments and their particular significance to women;
- Given the importance of general comments in clarifying the provisions of human rights treaties, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is invited to draw up joint general comments with other treaty bodies, within their respective mandates, on the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights and should discuss these and other collaborative activities at the annual chairpersons meeting;
- The treaty bodies should continue to develop working methods that facilitate communications between non-governmental organizations, treaty bodies and the States parties;
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is commended for establishing a gender team for studying, within the mandate of the Office, the human rights of women; the team should be given the necessary support by the most senior levels of management and decision-making to carry out its work effectively;
- Specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other international financial and national trade organizations, should develop innovative ways of integrating the promotion of women's enjoyment of their human rights in all their policies and programmes.

IV. The girl child

The Commission on the Status of Women

Reaffirms the Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[55] notably chapter IV.L on the girl child, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[56] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[57] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[58]

Proposes, in order to accelerate the implementation of the strategic objectives of chapter IV.L:

A. Promotion and protection of the human rights of the girl child

Actions to be taken by Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and civil society and the United Nations system, as appropriate:

- Promote further the enjoyment by children, particularly the girl child, of their human rights, by the elaboration of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography;

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[55] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[56] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[57] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[58] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

- Organize community-based actions, including the setting up of local committees to create awareness of, and monitor conformity with, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with a special focus on the situation of adolescent girls and young mothers;
- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns designed to mobilize communities, including community leaders, religious organizations, parents and other family members, especially male family members, with regard to the rights of the child, giving special emphasis to the girl child, and monitor changes in attitudes;
- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns and gender training targeted at law enforcement and justice system officials with regard to the rights of children, giving special attention to the girl child;
- Eliminate traditional and customary practices that constitute son-preference through awareness-raising campaigns and gender training;
- Recognize and promote the contribution of girls and boys to development;
- Promote non-discriminatory treatment of girls and boys in the family and, in this regard, adopt measures to ensure equal access by girls and boys to food, education and health.

Actions to be taken by States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:

- Include comprehensive information and sex- and age-disaggregated data on children in their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and invite the treaty monitoring bodies to pay special attention to the rights of the girl child while assessing those reports;
- Ensure that any reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child are formulated as precisely and as narrowly as possible and that they are not incompatible with the object and purpose of those conventions, and review the reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child with a view to withdrawing them.

B. Education and empowerment of the girl child

Actions to be taken by Governments, educational institutions and the United Nations system, as appropriate:

- Consider drawing upon the findings and recommendations of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Adolescent Girls and their Rights, held in Addis Ababa in October 1997;
- Consider making primary education compulsory;
- Ensure universal enrolment and retention of girls in school and ensure the continued education of pregnant adolescents and young mothers in order to guarantee basic education to the girl child;

- Encourage all levels of society, including parents, Governments and non-governmental organizations, to support the implementation of educational policies to enhance gender awareness in the community;
- Provide gender-sensitive training for school administrators, parents and all members of the school community, such as local administrators, staff, teachers, school boards and students;
- Review teaching materials, including textbooks, to promote the self-esteem of women and girls through positive self-images and revise these materials, highlighting women's effective role in society, including in decision-making, development, culture, history, sports and other social, political and economic endeavours;
- Develop programmes of sensitization on the gender perspective for staff of government offices working on educational issues concerning indigenous and rural girls, and develop educational materials adapted to their situation;
- Identify the special needs of girls in difficult circumstances, including girls from migrant families, refugee and displaced girls, girls from ethnic minorities, indigenous girls, orphaned girls, girls with disabilities and other girls with special needs, and provide the resources necessary to address their needs;
- Involve girls, including girls with special needs, and their representative organizations in the decision-making process and include them as full and active partners in identifying their own needs and in designing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs;
- Provide training opportunities for girls to develop their skills in leadership, advocacy and conflict resolution;
- Make visible girls' and boys' unpaid work in the household by conducting research and documenting gender differences, particularly in rural communities, note the implications of household work for girls' equal access to basic and further education and career development and take measures to redress imbalances and eliminate discrimination.

C. Health needs of girls

Actions to be taken by Governments, civil society and the United Nations system, as appropriate:

- Protect the girl child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by taking appropriate measures, including, for example, designing and implementing legislation;
- Encourage parents, coalitions of concerned organizations and individuals, especially political leaders, popular and community figures and the media, to advocate for children's health, including adolescent girls' reproductive and sexual health;
- Eradicate all customary or traditional practices, particularly female genital mutilation, that are harmful to or discriminate against women and girls and that are violations of women's human rights and obstacles to the full enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, through the design and implementation of awareness-raising programmes, education and training, as well as programmes to help the victims of such practices to overcome their trauma;
- Develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting customary or traditional practices that are violations of women's human rights and obstacles to the

full enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and prosecute the perpetrators of practices that are harmful to the health of women and girls;

- Make widely available information and counselling to adolescent girls and boys, especially on human relationships, reproductive and sexual health, sexually transmitted diseases and adolescent pregnancy, that are confidential and easily accessible and emphasize the equal responsibility of girls and boys;
- Improve the health care for adolescent girls by health personnel and provide the latter with appropriate training, and encourage health- care personnel to work with girls to understand their special needs;
- Recognize and protect from discrimination pregnant adolescents and young mothers and support their continued access to information, health care, nutrition, education and training;
- Support the activities of non-governmental organizations in the area of reproductive health and health orientation centres for girls;
- Enact laws concerning the minimum age for marriage and raise the minimum age for marriage when necessary in order to ensure respect for the rights of the child, as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[59]

D. Girls in armed conflict

Actions to be taken by the United Nations and Governments:

- Incorporate information on the rights of the child in the mandates and operational guidelines of peacekeeping forces, the military and humanitarian workers and provide them with gender-sensitive training;
- Encourage girls and other individuals and communities to play a key role in reporting violations of rights of girls in armed conflict to the appropriate authorities and ensure adequate, accessible and gender-sensitive support services and counselling;
- Protect the girl child in situations of armed conflict against participation in armed conflicts, recruitment, rape and sexual exploitation, in particular through the adoption of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[60] as recommended by the General Assembly;
- Take measures to address the special needs of girls for protection and for gender-appropriate support and counselling centres in refugee camps, and in resettlement and reintegration efforts;
- Create and respect zones of peace for children in armed conflict.

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[59] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[60] Ibid.

E. Trafficking, including for purpose of prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation

Actions to be taken by Governments, international organizations and civil society:

- Collect information and raise public awareness on the issue of trafficking, physical and psychological abuse, and sexual exploitation of girls in order to better design and improve preventative programmes;
- Consider implementing the recommendations of the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,[61] held in Stockholm in 1996;
- Establish recovery programmes for children who have been abused or sexually exploited, with specially trained personnel to provide a safe and supportive environment.

Actions to be taken by Governments:

- Enact and enforce laws that prohibit sexual exploitation including prostitution, incest, abuse and trafficking of children, paying special attention to girls;
- Prosecute and punish persons and organizations engaged in and/or promoting the sex industry, sexual exploitation, acts of paedophilia, trafficking in organs, child pornography and sex tourism involving minors, and condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, whether local or foreign, while ensuring that children who are victims of those practices are not penalized;
- Design mechanisms and strengthen international cooperation to better protect girls and bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes;
- Adopt measures that ensure that judicial and legal processes are sensitive to the specific needs of abused girls to prevent further traumatization or victimization.

F. Labour and the girl child

Actions to be taken by Governments, international organizations and the private sector:

- Consider ratifying and implementing international agreements that are designed to protect children, including conventions of the International Labour Organization, and bring national legislation into conformity with those agreements in order to protect the girl child;
- Ensure that girls who work have access to education and vocational training, health, food, shelter and recreation on equal and favourable conditions, and are protected from economic exploitation, sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace;
- Pay special attention to girls in the informal sector, such as domestic workers, and develop measures to protect their human rights and fundamental freedoms and prevent their economic exploitation, ill-treatment and sexual abuse;
- Raise government and public awareness as to the nature and scope of the special needs of girls employed as domestic workers and of those performing excessive domestic

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[61] A/51/385, annex.

chores in their own households, and develop measures to prevent their economic exploitation and sexual abuse;

- Actively contribute to efforts at the 1998 session of the International Labour Conference to draw up a new international convention to eliminate the most abhorrent forms of child labour;
- Consider the implementation of the actions identified in the Agenda for Action[62] of the 1997 Oslo Conference on Child Labour.

G. General recommendations

Actions to be taken by Governments and the United Nations system:

- Prepare programmes for the girl child as part of national action plans in order to fully implement the Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women;[63]
- The organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, as the agency mandated to deal with the rights and concerns of children, should give greater attention to the girl child through Fund country programmes, using its goodwill ambassadors for raising awareness on the situation of the girl child on national, regional and international levels;
- The Secretary-General should report on the girl child to the Commission on the Status of Women prior to the five-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;
- Base programmes and policies for the girl child on the rights of the child, the responsibilities, rights and duties of the parents and the evolving capacity of the girl child, in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[64]

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/13

Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 52/91 of 12 December 1997, on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

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[62] A/53/57.

[63] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[64] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

"*Considering* that, pursuant to its resolutions 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 and 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is to be convened in the year 2000,

"*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993 and the draft rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders annexed to that resolution,

"*Emphasizing* the role of the Tenth Congress as a consultative body of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in accordance with paragraph 29 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the Programme annexed to General Assembly resolution 46/152,

"*Aware* of the important work to be accomplished by the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress,

"*Stressing* the importance of undertaking all the preparatory activities for the Tenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the preparations for the Tenth Congress,[65]

"1. *Accepts with gratitude* the invitation of the Government of Austria to host the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders at Vienna;

"2. *Decides* to hold the Tenth Congress from 10 to 17 April 2000, with pre-congress consultations to be held on 9 April 2000;

"3. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress, finalized by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session:

"1. Opening of the Congress.

"2. Organizational matters.

"3. Promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system.

"4. International cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century.

"5. Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments.

"6. Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process.

"7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

"4. *Notes* that the Commission, at its seventh session, reviewed a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress;

"5. *Endorses* the programme of work for the Tenth Congress, including the holding of four practically oriented technical workshops on the following subjects:

"(*a*) Combating corruption;

"(*b*) Crimes related to the computer network;

"(*c*) Community involvement in crime prevention;

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[65] E/CN.15/1998/2.

"(*d*) Women in the criminal justice system;

"6. *Decides* that the theme of the Tenth Congress should be 'Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century';

"7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops and invites Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to support financially, organizationally and technically the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

"8. *Welcomes* the offer of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network to assist in the preparations for the workshops;

"9. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops;

"10. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Tenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and to actively participating in the organization and follow-up of the workshops;

"11. *Decides*, without prejudice to the current preparatory arrangements for the Tenth Congress, to streamline and minimize the costs of the preparation and servicing of the regional preparatory meetings by shortening their duration and limiting their documentation, by holding them in conjunction with other regional meetings or, if they are not absolutely necessary, by not convening them at all;

"12. *Also decides* that the savings achieved should be used in servicing meetings and supporting the priority programme activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

"(a) To undertake the necessary logistic steps, in collaboration with Member States and the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to mobilize the participation of interested partners in the preparations for the four workshops;

"(b) To ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information related to the preparations for the Tenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the implementation of its conclusions;

"14. *Requests* the Commission, as the preparatory body for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, to accord high priority at its eighth session to the finalization in good time of all the necessary organizational and substantive arrangements;

"15. *Also requests* the Commission at its eighth session to prepare a draft declaration for submission to the Tenth Congress, taking into account the results of the regional preparatory meetings;

"16. *Urges* the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive agenda items and workshop topics of the Tenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft declaration to be considered by the Commission at its eighth session;

"17. *Requests* the Tenth Congress to elaborate a single declaration containing its recommendations on the various substantive items of its agenda with a view to submitting that declaration to the Commission for consideration at its ninth session;

"18. *Decides* that the Commission, at its tenth session, should undertake a review of the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, including the issue of regional preparatory meetings;

"19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its eighth session."

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/14
Transnational organized crime

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 49/159 of 23 December 1994 and 52/85 of 12 December 1997,

"*Taking note* of the Buenos Aires Declaration on Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the Regional Ministerial Workshop on Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, held at Buenos Aires from 27 to 30 November 1995,[66] the Dakar Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, adopted by the African Regional Ministerial Workshop on Action against Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held at Dakar from 21 to 23 July 1997,[67] and the Manila Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime, adopted by the Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Action against Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held at Manila from 23 to 25 March 1998,[68]

"*Convinced* of the importance of continuous action by Member States aimed at the full implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and the Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held at Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 1994,[69]

"*Convinced also* of the need to proceed expeditiously with the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime,

"*Mindful* of the fact that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1997/232 of 21 July 1997, the theme for the seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was 'Organized transnational crime',

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[66] E/CN.15/1996/2/Add.1, annex.

[67] E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.1, chap. I.

[68] E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.2, chap. I.

[69] A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime: question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, and other possible international instruments;[70]

"2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Poland for acting as host to the meeting of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on the elaboration of a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime, held at Warsaw from 2 to 6 February 1998;

"3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the meeting of the group of experts;[71]

"4. *Urges* Member States to continue making every possible effort to fully implement the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan by taking the most appropriate legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, including those aimed at prevention;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work on the development and maintenance of the central repository established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/27 of 24 July 1996;

"6. *Urges* Member States to respond promptly to the requests of the Secretary-General for data, and other information and material, including legislation and pertinent regulatory texts, by submitting such information and material in accordance with the methodological points and categorization of data set for in annex II to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/22 of 21 July 1997, in order to facilitate the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work on the elaboration of training manuals for law enforcement and judicial personnel on action against transnational organized crime;

"8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to identify and allocate within the overall budget of the United Nations adequate resources for strengthening the capacity of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in order to assist Member States in the full implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan;

"9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue providing Member States with technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance upon request in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the area of prevention and control of transnational organized crime;

"10. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea;

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[70] E/CN.15/1998/6.

[71] E/CN.15/1998/5.

"11. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of the Government of Argentina to host an informal preparatory meeting of the ad hoc committee at Buenos Aires from 31 August to 4 September 1998, in order to enable the continuation without interruption of work on the elaboration of the convention;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the ad hoc committee at Vienna from 18 to 29 January 1999 and to consider the possibility of convening a second meeting before the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, if this proves necessary to advance the process;

"13. *Decides* to accept the recommendation of the Commission to elect Luigi Lauriola (Italy) as the Chairman of the ad hoc committee;

"14. *Requests* the ad hoc committee, in carrying out its work pursuant to paragraph 10 above, to take into account the report of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/85,[72] the report of the working group on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime,[73] including its appendices, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/18, 1998/19 and 1998/20, all of 28 July 1998;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources to convene, support and follow up the work of the ad hoc committee;

"16. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the work of the ad hoc committee;

"17. *Requests* the ad hoc committee to submit a progress report to the Commission at its eighth session and to hold a meeting during that session for at least three working days."

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/15
Mutual assistance and international cooperation in criminal matters

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Bearing in mind* that the United Nations model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters provide important tools for the development of international cooperation,

"*Convinced* that existing arrangements governing international cooperation in criminal justice must be regularly reviewed and revised to ensure that the specific contemporary problems of fighting crime are effectively addressed,

"*Bearing in mind* that developing countries and countries with economies in transition may lack the resources for developing and implementing treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters,

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[72] Ibid.

[73] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10* (E/1998/30 and Corr.1), annex III.

"*Convinced* that complementing and supplementing the United Nations model treaties will contribute to increased efficiency in combating criminality,

"*Recalling* its resolution 45/117 of 14 December 1990, in which it adopted the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, annexed to that resolution,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 52/88 of 12 December 1997,

"*Commending* the work of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, held at Arlington, Virginia, United States of America, from 23 to 26 February 1998, to implement in part General Assembly resolution 52/88 by proposing complementary provisions for the Model Treaty, elements for model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters, and training and technical assistance for national officials engaged in that field,

"*Commending also* the Government of the United States of America for hosting the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting for its substantial contribution to the organization of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting and for the support given by the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice through the programme of the United Nations On-line Crime and Justice Clearing House,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, held at Arlington, Virginia, United States of America, from 23 to 26 February 1998;[74]

"2. *Decides* that the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters should be complemented by the provisions set forth in annex I to the present resolution;

"3. *Encourages* Member States, within the framework of national legal systems, to enact effective legislation on mutual assistance and calls upon the international community to give all possible assistance in order to contribute to the achievement of that goal;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to elaborate, in consultation with Member States, for submission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters, in order to enhance effective cooperation between States, taking into account the elements recommended by the Expert Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters for inclusion in such model legislation, which are set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

"5. *Invites* Member States to take into account the Model Treaty in negotiating treaties at the bilateral, regional or multilateral level, as appropriate;

"6. *Also invites* Member States to consider, where applicable and within the framework of national legal systems, the following measures in the context of the application of treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters or other arrangements for such mutual assistance:

"(*a*) Establishing or designating a national central authority or authorities to process requests for assistance;

"(*b*) Undertaking regular reviews of their treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters or other arrangements and implementing legislation, as well as taking other necessary measures for the purpose of rendering such arrangements and legislation more efficient and effective in combating established and emerging forms of crime;

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[74] E/CN.15/1998/7, annex.

"(*c*) Concluding asset-sharing arrangements as a means of enabling forfeited proceeds of crime to be used to strengthen the capacity of national criminal justice systems and contributing a part of such proceeds to programmes such as those aimed at enhancing national capacities for fighting crime in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, paying due consideration to the rights of bona fide third parties;

"(*d*) Making use of videoconferencing and other modern means of communications for, *inter alia*, transmission of requests, consultation between central authorities, taking of testimony and statements, and training;

"7. *Encourages* Member States to promote, on a bilateral, regional or worldwide basis, measures to improve the skills of officials in order to strengthen mutual assistance mechanisms, such as specialized training and, whenever possible, secondment and exchanges of relevant personnel, and to consider the use of videoconferencing and other modern means of communications for training purposes;

"8. *Reiterates* its invitation to Member States to provide to the Secretary-General copies of relevant laws and information on practices related to international cooperation in criminal matters and, in particular, to mutual assistance in criminal matters, as well as updated information on central authorities designated to deal with requests;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

"(*a*) To regularly update and disseminate the information mentioned in paragraph 8 above and, in particular, to prepare, for use by Member States, a directory of central authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance, drawing on the information already collected during the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting;

"(*b*) To continue to provide advisory and technical cooperation services to Member States requesting assistance in drafting and implementing appropriate national legislation, and developing and implementing bilateral, subregional, regional or international treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters, drawing on the expertise of Member States as appropriate;

"(*c*) To provide, in cooperation with interested Member States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, training on mutual assistance law and practice for personnel in appropriate governmental agencies and for central authorities of requesting Member States in an effort to develop the necessary skills and to improve communication and cooperation aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of mutual assistance mechanisms;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with interested Member States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and the institutes constituting the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to develop appropriate training materials for use in providing to requesting Member States the technical assistance referred to above;

"11. *Commends* the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences of Siracusa, Italy, for its offer to organize and host up to two training seminars for mutual assistance officials and invites interested Member States to provide voluntary contributions to offset the travel costs of officials from developing countries and from countries with economies in transition and to make substantive contributions to the seminars;

"12. *Urges* Member States and funding agencies to assist the Secretary-General in implementing the present resolution through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the provisions of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

"Annex I

"Complementary provisions for the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters

"*Article 1*

"1. In paragraph 3 (*b*), replace the words 'Optional Protocol to' with the words 'article 18 of'.

"*Article 3*

"2. In the title of article 3 replace the word 'competent' with the word 'central'.

"3. Insert the word 'central' before the word 'authority'.

"4. Add the following footnote to the end of article 3:

> 'Countries may wish to consider providing for direct communications between central authorities and for the central authorities to play an active role in ensuring the speedy execution of requests, controlling quality and setting priorities. Countries may also wish to agree that the central authorities are not the exclusive channel for assistance between the Parties and that the direct exchange of information should be encouraged to the extent permitted by domestic law or arrangements.'

"*Article 4*

"5. In the footnote to paragraph 1, replace the last sentence with the following:

> 'Countries may wish, where feasible, to render assistance, even if the act on which the request is based is not an offence in the requested State (absence of dual criminality). Countries may also consider restricting the requirement of dual criminality to certain types of assistance, such as search and seizure.'

"6. In paragraph 1 (*d*) delete the words 'that is subject to investigation or prosecution in the requested State or'.

"7. Add the following footnote to the end of paragraph 4:

> 'States should consult in accordance with article 20 before assistance is refused or postponed.'

"*Article 5*

"8. Add the following footnote to the end of paragraph 2:

> 'Countries may wish to provide that the request may be made by modern means of communication, including in particularly urgent cases verbal requests that are confirmed in writing forthwith.'

"*Article 6*

"9. Add the following footnote to the end of article 6:

> 'The requested State should secure such orders, including judicial orders, as may be necessary for the execution of the request. Countries may also wish to agree, in accordance with national legislation, to represent or act on behalf or for the benefit of the requesting State in legal proceedings necessary to secure such orders.'

"*Article 8*

"10. Add the following words to the end of the footnote to article 8:

> ', or restrict use of evidence only where the requested State makes an express request to that effect.'

"11. Add the following words to the beginning of article 8: 'Unless otherwise agreed,'.

"*Article 11*

"12. Add the following footnote to the end of paragraph 2:

> 'Wherever possible and consistent with the fundamental principles of domestic law, the Parties should permit testimony, statements or other forms of assistance to be given via video link or other modern means of communication and should ensure that perjury committed under such circumstances is a criminal offence.'

"*Article 12*

"13. In the English version of paragraph 1, replace the word 'required' with the words 'called upon'.

"14. Add the following footnote to the end of the article:

> 'Some countries may wish to provide that a witness who is testifying in the requesting State may not refuse to testify on the basis of a privilege applicable in the requested State.'

"*New article 18*

"15. Insert as new article 18, entitled 'Proceeds of crime', paragraphs 1 to 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters concerning the proceeds of crime, and delete the remaining text of the Optional Protocol, including the footnotes.

"16. Replace the word 'Protocol' with the word 'article' throughout the new article.

"17. Add the following footnote to the end of the title of the new article:

> 'Assistance in forfeiting the proceeds of crime has emerged as an important instrument in international cooperation. Provisions similar to those outlined in the present article appear in many bilateral assistance treaties. Further details can be provided in bilateral arrangements. One matter that could be considered is the need for other provisions dealing with issues related to bank secrecy. Provisions could be made for the equitable sharing of the proceeds of

crime between the Contracting States or for consideration of the disposal of the proceeds on a case-by-case basis.'

"18. Add the following footnote to the end of paragraph 5:

'The Parties might consider widening the scope of the present article by the inclusion of references to victims' restitution and the recovery of fines imposed as a sentence in a criminal prosecution.'

"*Articles 18–21*

"19. Renumber the former article 18 (it should become article 19) and renumber all subsequent articles accordingly.

"Annex II

"Elements recommended for inclusion in model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters

"A. General recommendation

"1. Model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters should reflect in statutory terms the general provisions of the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, together with the recommendations contained in annex I to the present resolution. To the extent possible, it should provide different options for States with different legal systems. Where relevant, it should take into account provisions of the model bill on mutual assistance in criminal matters developed in 1998 by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

"B. Scope

"2. The model legislation should provide a full range of flexible options for assuming mutual assistance obligations. When there is a treaty on mutual assistance in criminal matters, the terms of that treaty should govern the relationship. The legislation should also permit mutual assistance to be provided without a treaty, with or without reciprocity.

"C. Jurisdiction

"3. The model legislation could contain provisions to provide for jurisdiction, *inter alia*:

"(a) To issue judicial orders necessary for executing mutual assistance requests;

"(b) To authorize the requested State to act on behalf or for the benefit of, or to represent the interests of, the requesting State in legal proceedings necessary for executing mutual assistance requests;

"(c) To punish perjury committed during mutual assistance, in particular perjury committed during videoconferencing.

"D. Procedure

"4. The model legislation should include options for procedures dealing with both incoming and outgoing requests for assistance in criminal matters. Such procedures should be in conformity with, whenever applicable, international and regional human rights instruments. Where no treaty provision is applicable, the legislation could also contain provisions on specific forms of mutual assistance, including testimony and other forms of cooperation carried out via video link, cooperation in asset seizure and forfeiture, and temporary transfer of witnesses in custody.

"5. The model legislation could provide for the establishment of a central authority or authorities for the receipt and transmission of requests and the provision of advice and assistance to relevant authorities. The legislation could also specify the extent of the central authority's powers.

"E. Communications

"6. Where no treaty provision is applicable, the legislation should set forth the means of communicating between the requesting State and the requested State, allowing for use of the most modern forms of communication."

1998/16
Action against corruption

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned about the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

Convinced that existing arrangements for combating corruption at the national and international levels must be periodically reviewed and modernized to ensure that the specific contemporary problems of fighting all forms of corruption are being effectively addressed at all times,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/59 of 12 December 1996,

Recalling also its resolution 1995/14 of 24 July 1995,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 52/87 of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite each Member State to provide a report on steps taken to implement the provisions of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,[75]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on action against corruption and bribery,[76]

Recalling the manual prepared by the Secretariat on practical measures against corruption,[77]

Aware of recent multilateral initiatives to combat corruption, including the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,[75] the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials,[78] the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, adopted by the Organization of American States on 29 March 1996,[79] the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions done at Paris on 17 December 1997, the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests and the Protocol and Second Protocol to that Convention drawn up by the Council of the European Union on the basis of article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of member States of the European Union, the ongoing work of the Council of Europe to elaborate a criminal law convention against corruption, the programmes of the Council of Europe targeting that form of criminality, and recommendation 32 of the recommendations elaborated and endorsed by the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime, which met at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996, which are contained in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/22,

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[75] General Assembly resolution 51/191, annex.

[76] E/CN.15/1998/3.

[77] *International Review of Criminal Policy*, Nos. 41 and 42 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.IV.4).

[78] General Assembly resolution 51/59, annex.

[79] See E/1996/99.

Convinced that updating the manual on practical measures against corruption by incorporating into the manual a section describing recent developments will contribute to increased efficiency in combating that form of criminality,

Determined to ensure that United Nations materials to assist States in their efforts to combat corruption remain as useful and up to date as possible,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to update the manual prepared by the Secretariat on practical measures against corruption, to include in the text a section describing recent developments in combating corruption, in particular the practical impact of recent multilateral initiatives in this area, such as the above-described activities of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Community, the Council of Europe and the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime;

2. *Decides* to convene an open-ended meeting of governmental experts, using extrabudgetary resources offered by the Government of France for that purpose, to explore means of ensuring that the initiatives described in paragraph 1 above are effective and that an appropriate international strategy against corruption, including the proceeds thereof, is formulated in consultation with other intergovernmental organizations active in this area;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the work of the intergovernmental experts, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/17
Regulation of explosives for the purpose of crime prevention and public health and safety

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 9 of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,[80]

Recalling also section IV.A of its resolution 1995/27 of 24 July 1995 and its resolutions 1996/28 of 24 July 1996 and 1997/28 of 21 July 1997,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 52/38 J of 9 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to initiate a study on the problems of ammunition and explosives in all their aspects, in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations where necessary,

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[80] *Report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Cairo, 29 April–8 May 1995* (A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1), chap. I.

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 51/60 of 12 December 1996 and the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security annexed to that resolution,

Bearing also in mind Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 9 (XXXVI) of 7 April 1993,[81] on the relationship between the illicit traffic in arms and explosives and illicit drug trafficking, in which the Commission recommended that States should consider establishing or improving appropriate controls on transfers of explosives, munitions and armaments,

Taking note with appreciation of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, adopted by the Organization of American States on 13 November 1997,

Deeply concerned that effective action against manifestations of transnational organized crime is hampered by the easy access of criminals and organized criminal groups to firearms, munitions, explosives and their components and parts,

Concerned that rapid globalization of crime will have a negative effect on the continued capacity of Governments to assess and effectively counteract threats to public security and weaken international efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation among police, intelligence, customs and border control agencies,

Noting the interest shown by Member States in receiving United Nations technical assistance in the area of prevention and control of illicit trafficking in and use of firearms, explosives and their components and parts,

Recognizing that, with the increasing dimensions and scale of international transport and the growing sophistication of transnational illicit trafficking in explosives, States that have not already done so may consider reviewing their legislation and administrative regulations concerning explosives and their components and parts, to make those instruments more effective in combating that crime,

Determined, therefore, to initiate measures to promote international cooperation for the prevention of criminal misuse of and illicit trafficking in explosives and their components and parts,

1. *Decides*, for purposes of crime prevention and public safety, that a study should be initiated on illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives by criminals and on the abuse and misuse of explosives for criminal purposes;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, as early as possible, in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations where necessary, an action plan for collecting, reviewing and exchanging statistics, other information and policy proposals that may deal with, *inter alia*, the following issues:

(a) Criminal incidents in which explosive substances were involved, including the number of such incidents, the number of victims involved, the nature and extent of harm caused, the extent of damage to property and the type of explosives used;

(b) Diversion for criminal use of explosives;

(c) Status of national legislation and regulations on explosives in individual countries;

(d) Relevant initiatives for the regulation of explosives at the regional and international levels;

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[81] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 9* (E/1993/29/Rev.1), chap. XI.

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to examine the possibility of convening a meeting of a group of experts to consider the question of preparation of the action plan;[82]

4. *Invites* the International Criminal Police Organization to provide the Secretary-General with its views, suggestions and expertise regarding the development and implementation of the action plan with a view to making it an effective instrument for combating the criminal misuse of and illicit trafficking in explosives.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/18
Measures to regulate firearms for the purpose of combating illicit trafficking in firearms

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 9 of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, on firearms regulation for purposes of crime prevention and public safety,[83]

Recalling also section IV.A of its resolution 1995/27 of 24 July 1995 and its resolutions 1996/28 of 24 July 1996 and 1997/28 of 21 July 1997,

Bearing in mind that freedom from the fear of crime is fundamental to international cooperation and to the sustainable development of States and that international illicit trafficking in and criminal misuse of firearms have a harmful effect on the security of each State and endanger the well-being of peoples and their social and economic development,

Aware of the need for improved cooperation and exchange of data and other information for law enforcement purposes as well as for cooperative action to combat illicit trafficking in firearms,

Mindful that the suppression and prevention of international illicit trafficking in firearms can best be accomplished by the adoption of effective methods of identifying and tracing firearms and by the establishment of an import and export and in-transit licensing or similar authorization regime for the international transfer of firearms,

Aware of the importance of bilateral and multilateral instruments and arrangements in the furtherance of international cooperation, including guidelines and model regulations,

Noting with appreciation the work of regional organizations such as the Organization of American States, which completed in November 1997 the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials,[84] the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, which developed the Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components, and Ammunition, and the Council of the European Communities directive on firearm regulation,[85]

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[82] For this purpose, the group of experts may consider that the word "explosive" would mean any substance or article that is made, manufactured or used to produce an explosion, detonation or propulsive or pyrotechnic effect.

[83] *Report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Cairo, 29 April–8 May 1995* (A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1), chap. I.

[84] A/53/78, annex.

[85] Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991.

Taking note of the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, in particular those related to achieving effective control of firearms in the peace-building process in order to prevent their entry into the illicit market,

Noting the results of the United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation,[86]

Recognizing that States will benefit from sharing technical expertise and training that will enhance the capability of law enforcement and criminal justice officials to develop crime prevention policies and solutions to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in and criminal misuse of firearms,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/85 of 12 December 1997,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation and expresses its appreciation to the Member States that participated in that initiative;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Australia, Canada and Japan, to intergovernmental organizations and to institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network for contributing financially or in kind to the development and implementation of the United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Slovenia for acting as host to the regional workshop on firearm regulation in Europe, held at Ljubljana from 22 to 26 September 1997, to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for acting as host to the regional workshop on firearm regulation in Africa, held at Arusha from 3 to 7 November 1997, to the Government of Brazil for acting as host to the regional workshop on firearm regulation in the Americas, held at São Paulo from 8 to 12 December 1997, and to the Government of India for acting as host to the regional workshop on firearm regulation in Asia, held at New Delhi from 27 to 31 January 1998;

4. *Recommends* that States, in the light of the above-mentioned considerations, work towards the elaboration of an international instrument to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition within the context of a United Nations convention against transnational organized crime;

5. *Invites* States, when discussing the elaboration of the international instrument referred to in paragraph 4 above, to take into account, as appropriate, the views of interested non-governmental organizations and other interested parties;

6. *Recommends* that States, in discussing the elaboration of the international instrument, take into account, where relevant and appropriate, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, as well as other existing international instruments and ongoing initiatives;

7. *Decides* that the ad hoc committee on the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime, to be established by the General Assembly, should hold discussions on the elaboration of an international instrument to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, including, *inter alia*, effective methods of identifying and tracing firearms, as well as on the establishment or maintenance of an import and export and in-transit licensing or similar authorization regime for the international commercial transfer of

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[86] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.IV.2.

firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, to prevent their diversion for criminal misuse;

8. *Invites* the International Criminal Police Organization and other intergovernmental organizations to provide the Secretary-General with views and proposals regarding their possible contributions towards the development and implementation of technical cooperation to strengthen the ability of law enforcement officials to combat illicit trafficking in and criminal misuse of firearms, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/19
Action against illegal trafficking in migrants, including by sea

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants are normally carried out by organizations as part of their transnational criminal operations and ordinarily take place under inhuman conditions which result in a great number of accidents and casualties,

Stressing the need to combat all criminal practices connected with illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, having due regard to universally recognized human rights,

Stressing also that it is important that the States concerned establish bilateral, regional and multilateral coordinating mechanisms to fight activities related to illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/62 of 12 December 1996, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider giving attention to the question of the smuggling of aliens,

Recalling also its resolutions 1994/14 of 25 July 1994 and 1995/10 of 24 July 1995,

Recalling further the report of the meeting of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on the elaboration of a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime, held at Warsaw from 2 to 6 February 1998,[87] as well as the text of such a draft convention submitted by the Government of Poland,

Taking note of the existing proposals for a convention and a protocol on the subject of illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea, submitted to it by the Governments of Austria and Italy,

Taking note also of the proposal considered by the group of experts that the draft of an international convention against organized transnational crime could consist of a main convention and additional protocols covering specific offences,[88]

Stressing the importance for any legal instruments against illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea, to be legally and substantively consistent with the draft of an international convention against transnational organized crime,

Emphasizing that women and children are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of the crime of illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants,

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[87] E/CN.15/1998/5.

[88] Ibid., para. 13.

1. *Recognizes* the importance of elaborating an efficient legal instrument combating all aspects of transnational organized crime, for example illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea, having due regard to universally recognized human rights;

2. *Decides* that the ad hoc committee on the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime, to be established by the General Assembly, should hold discussions on the elaboration of an international instrument against illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea, taking into account the existing proposals for legal instruments against illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea.[89]

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/20
Action to combat international trafficking in women and children

The Economic and Social Council,

Gravely concerned by the significant and continuing increase in the activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in women and children,

Declaring that the attention and resources of law enforcement authorities, particularly in the countries of destination for the women and children being trafficked, must be directed towards preventing and punishing the activities of all those involved in organizing and facilitating such international trafficking, including criminal groups, individual traffickers, employers and consumers, who often force women and children into forms of debt bondage, servitude or sexual exploitation, involving criminal activities, in order to pay for their passage,

Recognizing that organized international criminal groups are becoming increasingly dangerous and active in international trafficking in women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

Recalling the report of the meeting of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on the elaboration of a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime, held at Warsaw from 2 to 6 February 1998,[90] as well as the text of such a draft convention submitted by the Government of Poland,

Recalling also its resolution 1996/26 of 24 July 1996, on measures to prevent illicit international trafficking in children and to establish penalties appropriate to such offences,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997, on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women,

Convinced of the need for all States to protect fully the universally recognized human rights of women and children, regardless of their legal status, and to provide humane treatment, particularly with regard to assistance, and protection,

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[89] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10* (E/1998/30), annex V.

[90] E/CN.15/1998/5.

Recognizing that international trafficking in women and children has high social and economic costs, often contributing to official corruption and burdening law enforcement agencies in all States where women and children subjected to such trafficking depart, transit or are found,

Reaffirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, including their right to control immigration flows,

Concerned that trafficking in women and children undermines public confidence in laws, policies and procedures relating to immigration and to ensuring the protection of genuine refugees,

Commending those States that have enacted effective domestic legislation permitting seizure and forfeiture of property, both real and personal, that is knowingly used in organized criminal activities that involve trafficking in women and children, as well as all property used in or derived from such trafficking,

Encouraging Member States that have not yet done so to enact domestic criminal legislation to combat international trafficking in women and children,

Concerned that, in the absence of a universal instrument on these matters, women and children will not be sufficiently protected against this type of crime, which is increasingly transcending national borders,

Declaring that effective action to combat international trafficking in women and children requires a comprehensive approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes preventive measures to educate potential victims and their families, as well as to frustrate traffickers, enforcement measures against traffickers and all those who assist them and protective measures to aid victims of trafficking, including protection for those victims who would assist in the prosecution of the traffickers,

1. *Decides* that the ad hoc committee on the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime, to be established by the General Assembly, should hold discussions on the elaboration, as appropriate, of an international instrument addressing trafficking in women and children;

2. *Stresses* the relevance of the following issues in connection with trafficking in women and children:

(a) The need for States to take effective and expeditious measures, particularly the enactment or amendment, if necessary, of domestic legislation, to provide appropriate penalties, such as substantial imprisonment, fines and forfeiture, in order to combat all aspects of organized criminal activities related to trafficking at the international level in women and children;

(b) The importance for States of sharing information, coordinating law enforcement activities and otherwise cooperating, if their laws permit, in order to locate and arrest those who organize trafficking in women and children, as well as those who exploit those trafficked;

(c) The need for States to provide specialized training for law enforcement, immigration and other concerned officers, as well as to initiate public information campaigns to make both potential victims and the general public aware of the terrible exploitation and possible loss of life inherent in trafficking in women and children;

(d) The need for countries of origin, transit and destination to observe fully international obligations and national laws, including those concerning the humane treatment and strict observance of all human rights of women and children, regardless of whether they were trafficked voluntarily or involuntarily;

(e) The goal of ensuring that international efforts to prevent international trafficking in women and children do not inhibit immigration or freedom of travel consistent with laws or undercut the protection provided to refugees by international law;

(f) The need for strengthened international cooperation and technical assistance for the benefit of developing countries.

44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998

1998/21

United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, on the creation of an effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,

Reaffirming the importance of United Nations standards, norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice and the need to maintain a balance between the current main priority issue of combating transnational organized crime and the other priority issues of the Programme,

I

Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

Recalling its resolution 1993/34 of 27 July 1993, in section III of which it requested the Secretary-General to commence without delay a process of information-gathering to be undertaken by means of surveys,

Recalling also its resolution 1996/16 of 23 July 1996, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to promote the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,

1. *Recommends* that the relevant national authorities promote the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the information-gathering and to submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session a report on the use and application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),[91] the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors[92] and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers[93] and to prepare updated reports where at least thirty additional States have replied in respect of a standard or norm on which a report has already been submitted;

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[91] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

[92] *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-September 1990* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C.26, annex.

[93] Ibid., chap. I, sect. B.3, annex.

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare survey instruments on the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,[94] the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security[95] and the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials;[96]

4. *Invites* States to provide resources to the Secretariat with a view to making the information provided on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice accessible through the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network via the World Wide Web;

5. *Invites* States and research institutes to make use of the information gathered regarding the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his budget proposals on the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme the resources appropriate for the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, in order to enable the Centre to fulfil its mandates;

II

Administration of juvenile justice

Recalling its resolution 1997/30 of 21 July 1997, on the administration of juvenile justice, and the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System, annexed to that resolution,

Welcoming the fact that the Committee on the Rights of the Child places considerable emphasis on juvenile justice during the review of State party reports and noting that its concluding observations often include recommendations to seek technical assistance in juvenile justice from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Children's Fund, in accordance with article 45 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[97]

Emphasizing the important preventive character of the effective use and application of existing United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice,

Concerned about the situation of children in conflict with the law and their treatment by the criminal justice system in a number of States,

Concerned also about the fact that, in the view of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, juvenile justice reform is needed in almost all States whose country reports have been considered,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,[98] in which the Secretary-General highlighted difficulties and deficiencies in the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice by Member States;

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[94] General Assembly resolution 51/191, annex.

[95] General Assembly resolution 51/60, annex.

[96] General Assembly resolution 51/59, annex.

[97] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[98] E/CN.15/1998/8 and Add.1.

2. *Welcomes* the fact that the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat has enhanced its cooperation with other United Nations entities, and with other partners involved in assisting Member States in setting up separate juvenile justice systems or in improving existing juvenile justice systems by adapting them to the United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice;

3. *Also welcomes* the increased number of technical assistance projects in the field of juvenile justice, reflecting also an increased awareness of Member States of the importance of juvenile justice reform to establishing and maintaining stable societies and the rule of law;

4. *Further welcomes* the establishment of a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice to coordinate activities in the field of juvenile justice, subject to the conditions set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, and calls on the partners involved to increase their cooperation, share information and pool their capacities and interests in order to increase the effectiveness of programme implementation;

5. *Urges* States to include, where necessary, provisions for juvenile justice in their national development plans, calls upon States to include the administration of juvenile justice in their funding policies for development cooperation and invites them to respond favourably to requests from other States that are seeking assistance from the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or the United Nations Children's Fund in developing and improving juvenile justice systems;

6. *Urges* States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to step up their efforts to ensure full implementation of their obligations under the Convention and to pursue the goals set forth in the Convention with regard to the treatment of children in the administration of juvenile justice and urges States to use and apply the United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice and related instruments;

7. *Reaffirms* that juvenile justice remains a high priority in the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, in particular as juveniles, both those in conflict with the law and those in difficult circumstances who may be potential future criminals, are easy prey for criminal organizations closely linked with activities of transnational organized crime;

8. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention to continue providing technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice and calls on Member States to provide the necessary resources;

9. *Underlines* the need for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes relating to children in the criminal justice system;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the administration of juvenile justice, as well as on the activities of the coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session;

III

Victims of crime and abuse of power

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985 and annexed thereto, and is considered a landmark in the treatment of victims,

Deeply concerned about the continuing victimization by crime, especially organized crime, violence, terrorism and abuses of power, particularly of vulnerable groups and individuals, which exacts a vast human cost and impairs the quality of life in many parts of the world,

Recalling the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power in the International Setting, held at Vienna from 18 to 22 December 1995,[99] as well as the expert group meetings on the same subject held at Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States of America, from 10 to 12 August 1996, at The Hague from 5 to 7 March 1997 and at Washington, D.C., on 26 and 27 February 1998, which highlighted the needs of victims of crime and abuse of power and the necessity of concerted action to protect and assist such victims,

Underlining that the subject of victims of crime and abuse of power will be one of the four main topics of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held at Vienna in April 2000,

1. *Welcomes* the guide for policy makers on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the handbook on justice for victims concerning the use and application of the Declaration;

2. *Notes* the consideration that the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court has given to provisions related to victims, particularly with regard to the proposed creation of a victims and witnesses unit;

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General to translate the guide for policy makers and the handbook on justice for victims into the other official languages of the United Nations and to disseminate them widely, using also electronic means of dissemination;

4. *Recommends* the continued development of a database on practical national experiences, on relevant case law and legislation and on the use and application of the Declaration, taking into account different systems and traditions, including indigenous and customary justice practices, and welcomes the initiative of the Government of the Netherlands to establish such a database and to maintain it for an initial duration of three years;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To seek the views of Member States regarding the desirability and feasibility of establishing an international fund for victims of crime and abuse of power in order to support, *inter alia*, the following:

- (i) Technical assistance to develop and/or strengthen victim support services and organizations;
- (ii) Specific projects and activities;

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[99] E/CN.15/1996/16/Add.5.

(iii) Awareness campaigns on victim rights and crime prevention;

(iv) Eligible victim claims resulting from international and transnational crime, where national avenues of recourse and/or redress are unavailable or insufficient;

(b) To convene a working group on this matter, consisting of Member States that express an interest in such a fund, and welcomes the offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host the working group;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General, Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in victim assistance and redress, using where appropriate a multi-partner approach, to incorporate victim assistance modules in technical cooperation projects and to assist Member States on request in applying the guide for policy makers on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the handbook on justice for victims concerning the use and application of the Declaration, through training courses, seminars, study tours, fellowships and advisory services, in order to help resolve problems in the implementation of the Declaration, and welcomes the initiative of the Government of the United States of America to establish a training programme to that end;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of interested States and relevant organizations, to make use of the database referred to in paragraph 4 above, in order to provide guidelines for drafting appropriate laws on victims and, at the request of Member States, to assist in the elaboration of new legislation;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General, Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations:

(a) To promote, where necessary, demonstration or pilot projects for the establishment and the further development of victim services, and other operational activities;

(b) To develop measures, where necessary, for special victim groups, such as victims of terrorism, victims and witnesses of organized crime, victims of hate or bias crimes, female and child victims of violence and sexual abuse and disabled victims;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the establishment of a coordination panel or other mechanism to ensure concerted action, with an appropriate division of responsibilities, among United Nations entities and other entities concerned in order to promote the implementation of the Declaration;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the plan of action for the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, annexed to the present resolution, with a view to reporting on it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Annex

Plan of action for the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power

I. Capacity-building

1. The Secretary-General,[100] Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in victim assistance and redress are requested[101] to further incorporate victim assistance modules in technical cooperation projects and to assist interested Member States in applying the guide for policy makers on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the handbook on justice for victims concerning the use and application of the Declaration, through training courses, seminars, study tours, fellowships and advisory services, in order to help resolve problems in the implementation of the Declaration.

2. The Secretary-General is requested to develop, in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, criteria for the selection of technical cooperation projects for the establishment or further development of victim services.

3. Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network are invited to assist the Secretary-General in updating, with an appropriate interval, the guide for policy makers and the handbook on justice for victims, giving special attention to practical national experiences, legislative information and case law concerning special victim groups such as victims and witnesses of organized crime, terrorism, economic and environmental crime, or bias or hate crimes and victims of violence against women and children.

4. The Secretary-General, together with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, is requested to assist interested Member States in the development of reparation and restorative policies for victims of violations of human rights and humanitarian law, as part of national reconstruction and reconciliation, and in the promotion of justice and the rule of law.

II. Information-gathering, information exchange and research

5. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with interested Member States and non-governmental organizations, is requested to support the international database on practical national and regional experiences in providing technical assistance in this field and on bibliographic and legislative information, including case law relevant to this field.

6. Member States and non-governmental organizations are invited to provide information for the database on projects, new programmes, case law and legislation and other relevant guidelines that have been found to be effective and could serve as models for such developments elsewhere and to help in identifying experts who could assist Member States, upon request, in implementing such projects, programmes and legislation.

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[100] In the present plan of action, references to the Secretary-General are understood as signifying primarily the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat and the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network.

[101] When the Secretary-General is requested to carry out activities, they should be performed within existing resources or through extrabudgetary funding.

7. Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to give consideration to the further development and use of methods of gathering data on victimization, such as standardized victimization surveys, including their extension to cover groups of victims such as victims and witnesses of organized crime, terrorism, economic and environmental crime, or bias or hate crimes and victims of violence against women, children and migrants.

8. Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to promote the evaluation of the efficacy of different forms of providing assistance to victims, the evaluation of the extent to which the criminal justice process takes into consideration the legitimate needs and concerns of victims and the evaluation of different forms of ensuring compensation and restitution to victims.

III. Prevention of victimization

9. The Secretary-General, together with cooperating institutes and organizations, is invited to study ways in which to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in responding to cases of large-scale victimization, terrorism and man-made catastrophes that are the result of criminal negligence, ensuring that the necessary emergency assistance is provided, using where necessary interdisciplinary and international crisis response teams to help in dealing with the situation and in responding to the needs and rights of the victims.

10. Member States are encouraged to consider the introduction, where necessary, and the strengthening of the work of ombudsmen and civilian review bodies or other complaint mechanisms and means of preventing and investigating possible abuse of power.

11. Member States and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to conduct public information and education campaigns designed to prevent and curtail victimization and re-victimization. Such campaigns should include both general campaigns directed at broad sectors of the population and special campaigns targeting select groups known to be at high risk of such victimization and re-victimization.

12. Member States, in close cooperation with representatives of the mass media, are encouraged to elaborate and effectively implement guidelines for the media for the protection of victims and in order to curtail re-victimization.

IV. Action at the regional and international levels

13. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States and regional commissions, is requested to explore the possibility of developing regional mechanisms for monitoring victimization and providing recourse and/or redress for victims.

14. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the international professional and academic community, is requested to help Member States in identifying lacunae in international criminal law and humanitarian and human rights law concerning the protection and rights of victims and witnesses, with a view to addressing those lacunae.

V. Coordination of relevant initiatives

15. The Secretary-General is requested to assist Member States in strengthening coordination arrangements and procedures to foster joint planning and implementation of victim-related activities.

16. The Secretary-General is requested to ensure concerted action, with an appropriate division of responsibilities, among United Nations entities and other entities concerned with promoting the implementation of the Declaration.

17. The Secretary-General is requested to assist Member States upon request in the elaboration of joint strategies and the mobilization of support for providing assistance to victims, including wider citizen participation and the promotion of the principles of restorative justice.

1998/22
Status of foreign citizens in criminal proceedings

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948,

Bearing in mind the relevant international legal instruments in the field of human rights,

Bearing also in mind the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Geneva from 22 August to 3 September 1955[102] and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 663 C (XXIV) of 31 July 1957, and the procedures for the effective implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules, approved by the Council in its resolution 1984/47 of 25 May 1984 and set out in the annex thereto,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/159 of 23 December 1994, in which the Assembly approved the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime,[103]

Conscious of the need to respect human dignity and the recognized rights of persons undergoing criminal proceedings as set forth in the International Covenants on Human Rights,[104]

Urges Member States that have not yet done so to consider adopting the following measures:

(a) Carefully examine whether foreign citizens under criminal prosecution are guaranteed universally recognized rights with regard to criminal prosecution at all stages of proceedings;

(b) Ensure that individuals are not subjected to more severe custodial penalties or inferior prison conditions in a State solely because they are not nationals of that State;

(c) Undertake the necessary arrangements to ensure that any foreign citizen subject to criminal proceedings whose native language is not that of the State conducting the proceedings against him or her and who for that reason is unable to understand the nature of such proceedings has access throughout his or her trial to the services of a suitable interpreter in his or her native language, to the extent possible;

(d) Whenever permitted by its internal law or practice, make available to foreign citizens as well as to nationals, provided that they fulfil the relevant legal requirements, alternative penal sentences or administrative penalties provided for under the legislation of the State conducting proceedings;

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[102] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.56.IV.4, annex I, sect. A.

[103] See A/49/748, annex, sect. I.A.

[104] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

(e) Intensify efforts to implement applicable international instruments, such as the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[105] concerning, *inter alia*, notification to consular authorities of the detention of their citizens.

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1998/23

International cooperation aimed at the reduction of prison overcrowding and the promotion of alternative sentencing

The Economic and Social Council,

Deeply concerned by the serious problem confronting many Member States as a result of prison overcrowding,

Convinced that conditions in overcrowded prisons may affect the human rights of prisoners,

Mindful of the fact that the physical and social conditions associated with prison overcrowding may result in outbreaks of violence in prisons, a development that could pose a grave threat to law and order,

Recalling the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)[106] and convinced of the necessity of their further implementation,

Recalling also the resolutions on the conditions of prisoners adopted by United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in particular resolution 16, on the reduction of the prison population, alternatives to imprisonment, and social integration of offenders, and resolution 17, on the human rights of prisoners, adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,[107]

Noting that the International Conference on Community Service Orders in Africa, held at Kadoma, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 28 November 1997, adopted the Kadoma Declaration on Community Service, contained in annex I to the present resolution,

Taking note of the recommendations of the seminar entitled "Criminal justice: the challenge of prison overcrowding", held jointly by the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the European Commission at San José, Costa Rica, from 3 to 7 February 1997, contained in annex II to the present resolution,

Mindful that many Member States lack the necessary resources to resolve the problem of prison overcrowding and conscious that the inadequate facilities and cell accommodations in prisons are a product of the difficult socio-economic conditions prevailing in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition,

Noting that, in an attempt to reduce prison overcrowding, some Member States have been trying to find a solution by granting amnesties or pardons or by building new prisons,

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[105] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

[106] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

[107] See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August–6 September 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. E.

Recognizing the need for Member States to establish economic and technical cooperation for the purpose of improving prison conditions and allocating resources to that end,

Considering that prison overcrowding causes a variety of problems, including difficulties for overworked staff,

Taking into account the limited effectiveness of imprisonment, especially for prisoners serving short sentences, and the cost of imprisonment to society as a whole,

Considering the growing interest in many Member States in measures to replace custodial sentences, especially taking into account the principles of human rights,

Considering also that community service and other non-custodial measures are innovative alternatives to imprisonment and that there have been promising developments in this area,

Considering further that compensation for damage done is an important element of non-custodial sentences,

Considering further that legislation can be introduced to ensure that community service and other non-custodial measures will be imposed as alternatives to imprisonment,

1. *Urges* Member States, if they have not yet done so, to consider introducing appropriate alternatives to imprisonment in their criminal justice systems;[108]

2. *Recommends* to Member States that have not yet done so to consider the adoption of effective measures to reduce pre-trial detention;

3. *Also recommends* to Member States, subject to national law, the consideration of the following:

(a) Dealing with petty offences according to customary practice where such practice exists, provided that doing so meets human rights requirements and that those involved so agree;

(b) If possible, using amicable means of settlement to deal with petty offences and resolving those offences among the parties, for example by using mediation, acceptance of civil reparation, or agreement to compensation through part of the income of the offender or through the work done by the offender to recompense the victim;

(c) If possible, preferring community service and other non-custodial measures to imprisonment;

(d) Conducting a study on the feasibility of adapting successful models of non-custodial measures and applying them in States where they are not yet being applied;

(e) Educating the public about the objectives of the above-mentioned alternatives to imprisonment and about how those alternatives work;

4. *Invites* international and regional financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to incorporate in their technical assistance programmes measures to reduce prison overcrowding, including the establishment of adequate infrastructure and the development of alternatives to imprisonment in their criminal justice systems;

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[108] See the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) as contained in General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex; and *Human Rights and Pre-trial Detention: Handbook of International Standards Relating to Pre-Trial Detention*, Professional Training Series, No. 3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XIV.6).

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice not later than at its tenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Annex I

Kadoma Declaration on Community Service

Recalling the 1996 Kampala Declaration on Prison Conditions in Africa, which takes into account the limited effectiveness of imprisonment, especially for those serving short sentences, and the cost of imprisonment to the whole of society,

Noting the growing interest in many countries in measures that replace custodial sentences and the promising developments across the world in this regard,

Noting with appreciation that the importance of the Kampala Declaration was recognized by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/36 of 21 July 1997 on international cooperation for the improvement of prison conditions, to which the Kampala Declaration was annexed,

Bearing in mind the 1990 United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)[109] and the 1985 United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules),[110]

Considering that, in many countries in Africa, the level of overcrowding is inhuman,

Recalling that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights[111] reaffirms the dignity inherent in a human being and the prohibition of degrading punishment and treatment,

Welcoming the success of the Zimbabwe Community Service scheme and its adoption by the Government of Zimbabwe following a three-year trial period,

Noting with appreciation that other African countries, including francophone and lusophone countries, are interested in introducing community service as a penal sanction in their criminal justice systems,

The participants at the International Conference on Community Service Orders in Africa, held in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 28 November 1997, make the following Declaration:

1. The use of prison should be strictly limited as a measure of last resort. Prisons represent a waste of scarce resources and human potential. The majority of prisoners who occupy them pose no actual threat to society.

2. The overcrowding in our prisons requires positive action through, *inter alia*, the introduction of community service.

3. Community service is in conformity with African traditions of dealing with offenders and with healing the damage caused by crime within the community. Furthermore,

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[109] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

[110] General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

[111] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

it is a positive and cost-effective measure to be preferred whenever possible to a sentence of imprisonment.

4. Community service should be effectively implemented and supervised and involve a programme of work where the offender is required to carry out a number of hours of voluntary work for the benefit of the community in his or her own time.

5. Governments, donors and civil society organizations are invited to support research, pilot schemes and other initiatives in this important area.

6. Countries that already have community service should take into account lessons learned from elsewhere and review their own schemes accordingly.

7. There should be promotion of community support through sensitization campaigns targeting public opinion; and the development of statistical databases to measure the effectiveness of community service.

8. We encourage those countries that have not yet done so to develop non-custodial sentencing alternatives and to this end we commit ourselves to cooperating with, and coordinating our action through, other national committees on community service, and/or interested groups, in order to better promote the scheme.

9. We adopt the Plan of Action attached hereto.

Appendix
Plan of action for the Kadoma Declaration on Community Service

Further to the Declaration made by participants at the Kadoma Conference on Community Service Orders in Africa, held in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 28 November 1997,

The participants adopt the following Plan of Action:

1. Network

Establish a network of National Committees on Community Service and other interested groups to provide mutual support and encouragement through:

Providing resource persons to assist at seminars in the subregion and elsewhere;
Sharing documentation (legislation, guidelines, administrative forms) and ideas;
Coordination and support of new projects;
Cooperation and assistance in administering the scheme;
Assistance in staff training;
Exchange visits.

2. Community service directory

Compile a community service directory. To this end, a home page will be established on the Internet informing interested persons of developments in this area; and a book will be produced that includes:

The contact points and addresses of all National Committees on Community Service and those contacts engaged in community service schemes;
List of experts and resource persons;
Contacts in interested countries;
Interested groups and organizations around the world;
Donor contacts and government contacts.

The book will be distributed in other languages, including in French and English translations.

3. Newsletter

Issue a newsletter:

To be produced by each National Committee on Community Service at regular intervals and circulated to the network;

To include: initiatives undertaken, problems encountered, solutions found, reports on workshops, calendar of events, requests for support (for example, resource persons), statistics and other information;

To be disseminated through the Internet or the mail (or both).

4. Research and data-gathering

Set up mechanisms for research and data-gathering:

Research findings and data gathered to be shared through the Newsletter or via the Internet;

Research projects identified (for example, on cost-benefit analyses) and funding application supported by the network;

Joint research projects on the benefits, problems and effectiveness of community service where the scheme is applied – undertaken regionally and internationally.

Annex II

Recommendations of the seminar entitled "Criminal justice: the challenge of prison overcrowding", held at San José, Costa Rica, from 3 to 7 February 1997

1. The Secretary-General should take measures to ensure that assistance is offered to States requesting it, either by drawing on existing resources or by creating a special budget heading, with a view to improving the physical conditions of prisons.

2. The Secretary-General should take measures to ensure that the relevant entities are furnished with the necessary resources to provide training for the administrative and operational personnel of the prisons of Member States requesting such training, priority being accorded to the most overcrowded prisons.

3. Measures should be taken to ensure that international and regional financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, adopt initiatives aimed at reducing prison overcrowding, including the provision of assistance for programmes of prison construction and the renovation of infrastructure.

4. The World Health Organization and regional bodies should be requested to incorporate, in their programmes of assistance, initiatives aimed at improving prison hospital facilities and the medical and hospital services offered to prisoners in States requesting such assistance.

5. Member States should urge the Secretary-General to promote and adopt, jointly with requesting Member States, measures to privatize individual prisons in such a way that they provide for security, the well-being and social reintegration of prisoners, profitable industrial use of prison labour and employment opportunities for prisoners after their release.

6. Member States should seek to establish in prisons human rights committees and work panels as alternative conflict-resolution mechanisms.

7. Member States should explore the possibility of adopting strategies to involve private enterprise in prison social rehabilitation programmes by creating enterprises and micro-

enterprises to encourage investment in the vocational training of prisoners, employment creation within prisons and the reintegration of former prisoners into the labour force, thereby ensuring full application of the principles of social reintegration and rehabilitation of former prisoners within the productive mainstream of countries.

8. Member States should take measures to ensure the marketing of prison production through promotional and marketing programmes and to progressively set up workshops in prisons.

1998/24

Technical cooperation and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/90 of 12 December 1997, on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity,

Stressing the direct relevance of crime prevention and criminal justice to sustained development, stability, improved quality of life, democracy and human rights, which is increasingly being recognized by United Nations entities, specialized agencies and other international organizations,

Aware of the continued increase in requests for technical assistance forwarded to the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, by least developed countries, developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict,

Recalling the agreement entered into in August 1997 between the Centre and the United Nations Office for Project Services to cooperate closely in the execution and implementation of technical assistance projects in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Appreciating the funding provided by certain Member States in 1997 that has permitted the Centre to enhance its capacity to execute an increased number of projects,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 52/12 A of 12 November 1997 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform",

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General[112] on the technical cooperation activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, in particular its success in focusing its technical cooperation activities in those subject areas specifically mandated by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Centre for International Crime Prevention for assisting Member States in achieving positive results in the improvement of their criminal justice systems by responding to the increasing requests for technical assistance, by implementing a number of important projects and by formulating new projects that urgently require new funding;

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[112] E/CN.15/1998/9.

3. *Welcomes* the work done by the informal consultative group on resource mobilization in accordance with resolutions 5/3 of 31 May 1996[113] and 6/1 of 9 May 1997[114] of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

4. *Commends* the increased cooperation between the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for Project Services and calls upon those entities, together with the World Bank and other international, regional and national funding agencies, to support technical cooperation activities complementary to existing bilateral programmes devoted to crime prevention and criminal justice as a means of guaranteeing effective and sustainable development, utilizing the expertise of the Centre;

5. *Welcomes* the close cooperation between the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, particularly in the area of action against money-laundering and in the area of drugs and prisons, and calls upon the two entities to continue undertaking joint activities, particularly the elaboration and execution of technical cooperation projects;

6. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that lack of adequate resources may impede progress in the further operationalization of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and hamper the implementation of those projects that have so far been elaborated in response to urgent requests from countries in need;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that contribute to the activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme by providing funding, and the services of associate experts, consultants and experts for training purposes, advisory missions and the implementation of technical assistance projects, by developing training manuals and other material, by offering fellowship opportunities and by hosting action-oriented workshops and expert group meetings;

8. *Calls upon* potential donors and relevant funding agencies to make significant and regular financial and/or other contributions for the formulation, coordination and implementation of technical assistance projects elaborated within the framework of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and to strengthen the role of the Programme as facilitator of bilateral assistance in that area;

9. *Invites* developing countries and countries with economies in transition to include in their requests for assistance from the United Nations Development Programme, in particular as part of its country programme framework, projects and/or elements on crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to strengthening national institutional capacity, professional expertise and continuing education in that field;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the plan for strategic management of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with Commission resolutions 1/1 of 29 April 1992[115] and 4/3 of 9 June 1995,[116] to further enhance the resources available within the existing overall budgetary framework of the United Nations for the activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, including travel funds for the mobilization of resources and special efforts for fund-raising;

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[113] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 10* (E/1996/30), chap. I, sect. D

[114] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 10* (E/1997/30), chap. I, sect. D

[115] Ibid., *1992, Supplement No. 10* (E/1992/30), chap. I, sect. C.

[116] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 10* (E/1995/30), chap. I, sect. D

11. *Requests* the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to enter into discussions with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with a view to having the Centre for International Crime Prevention recognized as an executing agency;

12. *Calls upon* the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to consider enhancing the operational activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme by establishing a presence at the country or subregional level, jointly with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme where appropriate.

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1998/25
Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/8 of 9 May 1979, 1980/20 of 30 April 1980, 1981/8 of 6 May 1981, 1982/12 of 30 April 1982, 1983/3 of 24 May 1983, 1984/21 of 24 May 1984, 1985/16 of 28 May 1985, 1986/9 of 21 May 1986, 1987/31 of 26 May 1987, 1988/10 of 25 May 1988, 1989/15 of 22 May 1989, 1990/31 of 24 May 1990, 1991/43 of 21 June 1991, 1992/30 of 30 July 1992, 1993/37 of 27 July 1993, 1994/5 of 20 July 1994, 1995/19 of 24 July 1995, 1996/19 of 23 July 1996 and 1997/38 of 21 July 1997,

Emphasizing that the need to balance the global licit supply of opiates against the legitimate demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes is central to the international strategy and policy of drug abuse control,

Noting the fundamental need for international cooperation and solidarity with the traditional supplier countries in drug abuse control in general, and in the universal application of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[117] in particular,

Having considered the *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997*,[118] in which the Board pointed out that in 1996 a balance between consumption and production of opiate raw materials has been achieved, and noting that efforts were made by the two traditional supplier countries, India and Turkey, to maintain, together with other producing countries, the balance between supply and demand,

Noting the importance of opiates in pain relief therapy as advocated by the World Health Organization,

1. *Urges* all Governments to continue contributing to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiates for medical and scientific needs, the achievement of which would be facilitated by maintaining, insofar as their constitutional and legal systems permit, support to the traditional supplier countries, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production and manufacture for export;

2. *Urges* Governments of all producing countries to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, and to take effective measures to prevent illicit production or diversion of opiate raw materials to illicit channels;

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[117] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[118] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XI.1.

3. *Urges* consumer countries to assess their needs for opiates realistically, and to communicate those needs to the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to ensure easy supply;

4. *Commends* the Board for its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions and, in particular:

(a) In urging the Governments concerned to adjust global production of opiate raw materials to a level corresponding to actual licit needs and to avoid unforeseen imbalances between licit supply of and demand for opiates caused by the sales of products manufactured from seized and confiscated drugs;

(b) In arranging informal meetings, during sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the main States importing and producing opiate raw materials;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation

44th plenary meeting
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1998/26

Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[119] and General Assembly resolutions 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 52/195 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling also that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[120]

Reaffirming the importance of operational activities for development in assisting the developing countries to implement the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action,

Reaffirming also that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to take the lead in the management of their own development process and that the funds and programmes constitute important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development",[121]

Noting that coordinated and integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences has become a priority of the United Nations system and that all activities related to global conference follow-up should fully integrate a gender perspective,

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[119] See A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

[120] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[121] E/1998/54 and Corr.1.

Emphasizing the importance of data disaggregated on the basis of sex and age for the evaluation of gender mainstreaming,

Expressing serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and thus should be country-driven,

Stressing also in that context the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

1. *Welcomes* the activities within the United Nations system that are aimed at implementing the Beijing Declaration[122] and Platform for Action, in particular for mainstreaming gender issues, and recognizing the need to further integrate a gender perspective, in particular into operational activities for development;

2. *Also welcomes* the opportunities that are presented by the reform process in the United Nations to better coordinate and mainstream gender issues as part of a strategic framework and reaffirms that an active and visible policy of gender mainstreaming should be integrated into the ongoing pilot phase and review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to fully incorporate a gender perspective into the coordinated and integrated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, and to continue to strengthen its capacity to support and implement world conference commitments, in particular the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

4. *Calls upon* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their poverty eradication activities, to target women and girls living in poverty and to ensure the availability of funding sources for such activities;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal rights and access to basic social services, such as education and health, as well as productive resources, training, employment, credit, microfinance and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities in order to promote the advancement and empowerment of women in all countries, and invites the international community to support national efforts in developing countries in this regard; and also invites non-governmental organizations, in this regard, to integrate a gender perspective into their programmes;

6. *Recognizes* the need of the United Nations system to adopt a coordinated and coherent policy for gender mainstreaming, including the establishment and strengthening of the role of gender units and focal points, including guidelines and directives for mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes for achieving gender equality;

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[122] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

7. *Reiterates* that location, seniority level, resources and participation of gender units, gender advisers and focal points in all policy-making and programming processes are crucial for translating the gender mainstreaming mandate into practical reality;

8. *Reaffirms* that responsibility for translating gender mainstreaming into practice rests at the highest levels;

9. *Urges* all funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to fully incorporate a gender analysis and perspective into their operational activities, with a view to achieving time-bound measurable goals, and emphasizes that this process should be guided by the need for the United Nations system to extend assistance to developing countries in meeting their commitments under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

10. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments in integrating data disaggregated by sex and age in their country programmes;

11. *Emphasizes* the role of the resident coordinators, within their mandate, to fully incorporate a gender perspective in the implementation of operational activities for development, in consultation with the host Government, and the need to provide regular gender training for resident coordinators and their staff;

12. *Recognizes* the need for accountability in the operational activities of the United Nations system in the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities, including in the report on the triennial policy review and through the preparation of comprehensive reports on the use of resources allocated for gender mainstreaming, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the respective governing bodies;

13. *Requests* the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes to monitor the implementation of gender mainstreaming in their programme of work, including in the budgeting of their respective organizations;

14. *Requests* the respective governing bodies to ensure the development of integrated monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming activities to facilitate an early identification of problems and to develop effective responses thereto, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes to evaluate the impact of their gender mainstreaming activities, in cooperation with the national Governments concerned, and to report thereon;

15. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their mandates and the priorities set by their respective governing bodies, to establish internal funding targets for gender mainstreaming wherever they do not exist, and requests that, where they do exist, more determined efforts be made to reach their own targets and to report regularly to their respective governing bodies thereon;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations development funds and programmes, in mobilizing resources from all available sources, to provide particular attention for allocating resources to gender mainstreaming activities and capacity-building;

17. *Welcomes* the work that the United Nations Development Fund for Women has undertaken to support inter-agency cooperation in gender mainstreaming, as well as its efforts to assist the advancement and empowerment of women at the country level, *inter alia*, through placing gender advisers and gender specialists, and recommends that States and agencies of the United Nations system consider increasing their contribution to and support for the work of the Fund;

18. *Reaffirms* that in order to implement the Platform for Action a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

19. *Also reaffirms* that in order to implement the Platform for Action adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

20. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in implementing General Assembly resolution 52/100, and, in this regard, requests the funds and programmes to submit proposals for the implementation of paragraphs 12 and 40 of Assembly resolution 52/100 to their respective governing bodies;

21. *Requests* all funds, programmes and relevant agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments, upon their request, in their national efforts to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[123] including on the reporting system;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in reporting to the preparatory committee for the high-level review in the year 2000 of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[124] and the Beijing Platform for Action, to be held as a special session of the General Assembly to include information on the progress in gender mainstreaming in operational activities and on the implementation of the present resolution.

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1998/27

Reporting of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1994/33 of 28 July 1994 and 1995/51 of 28 July 1995 as regards annual reporting mandates for the operational activities segment of the Council's substantive session,

Seeking to enhance the ability of the Council to fulfil its role in providing overall coordination and guidance for operational development programmes and funds on a system-wide basis,

Acknowledging the need for enhanced interaction between the Council and the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes,

Welcoming the submission by the executive heads of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund to the Council, on the invitation of their

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[123] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[124] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Executive Board, of a consolidated list of issues central to the improved coordination of operational activities,

Welcoming also the oral reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes during the operational activities segment of the Council on, *inter alia*, the resident coordinator system, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the United Nations Development Group,

1. *Requests* the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of these funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the reform programmes of the Secretary-General, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to conferences so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Boards, when considering the annual reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Council, to identify specific problems, opportunities and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis and to make appropriate proposals in line with Council resolution 1995/51;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when drawing up his annual report for the operational activities segment requested in Council resolution 1994/33, to take account of the annual reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as of the comments of the respective Executive Boards on the annual reports, and to focus the report on the themes to be agreed upon by the General Assembly in the next triennial policy review for future discussion by the Council's working-level meetings of the operational activities segment;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to arrange for the submission by the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, in consultation with the United Nations Development Group, to the Council at its annual substantive session, of a concise consolidated list of issues that are central to the improved coordination of operational activities and on which the funds and programmes seek consideration by and guidance from the Council, particularly in regard to the triennial policy review, and to include in the list recommendations whenever possible;

5. *Also invites* the Secretary-General to arrange for the United Nations Development Group to explore ways and means to enhance the consultation with the specialized agencies and the Secretariat in drawing up the consolidated list, as outlined in paragraph 4 above;

6. *Notes* that consecutive and/or joint meetings of the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, bearing in mind their respective mandates, could provide a useful forum for board-level discussion of the issues arising from the reporting requirements mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4.

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1998/28
International Year of Microcredit, 2005

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997 entitled 'Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty',

"*Recognizing* that microcredit programmes have successfully contributed to lifting people out of poverty in many countries around the world,

"*Bearing in mind* that microcredit programmes have especially benefited women and have resulted in the achievement of their empowerment,

"*Recognizing* that microcredit programmes, in addition to their role in the eradication of poverty, have also been a factor contributing to the social and human development process,

"*Bearing in mind* the importance of microfinance instruments such as credit, savings and related business services in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

"*Noting* the support to microcredit in the outcomes of different summit and high-level meetings, including the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (New Delhi, 7 and 8 April 1997),[125] the Ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Male, 12–14 May 1997),[126] the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session (Harare, 2–4 June 1997),[127] the Group of Seven statement on economic and financial issues (Denver, United States of America, 21 June 1997), the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council (Geneva, 30 June–25 July 1997), the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (Edinburgh, 24–27 October 1997) and the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (Cartagena, 18–20 May 1998),[128]

"*Noting also* that the year 2005 is the final year of the campaign of the Microcredit Summit (Washington, D.C., 2–4 February 1997), which, through its Declaration and Plan of Action,[129] endorsed a global campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services, by that year,

"*Noting further* that the international community is observing the period 1997–2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

"1. *Proclaims* the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit;

"2. *Requests* that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit programmes throughout the world;

"3. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, all concerned non-governmental organizations, other actors of civil society, the private sector and the media to highlight and give enhanced recognition to the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, its contribution to social development and its positive impact on the lives of people living in poverty;

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[125] See A/51/912-S/1997/406, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1997*, document S/1997/406.

[126] See A/52/222, annex.

[127] See A/52/465, annex II.

[128] A/52/970-S/1998/574.

[129] A/52/113, annex I.

"4. *Invites* all involved in the eradication of poverty to consider taking additional steps, including strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, so that credit and related services for self-employment and income-generating activities may be made available to an increasing number of people living in poverty and to further develop where appropriate, other microfinance instruments;

"5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to present to it at its fifty-eighth session a report containing a draft programme of action for the effective observance of the Year, in consultation with all relevant actors including United Nations bodies, under an item entitled 'First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty' to be included in the provisional agenda of that session."

45th plenary meeting
29 July 1998

1998/29

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Conscious of the deep interest of Member States in harnessing the benefits of new information technologies for furthering the objectives of the United Nations, including the objectives of economic and social development,

Recalling its resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, 1996/35 of 25 July 1996 and 1997/1 of 18 July 1997 on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, with due regard to all official languages,

Recalling also that in its resolution 1997/1 it commended the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for the concrete actions it had taken in pursuance of its mandate, and requested the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Working Group for one more year, from within existing resources, for the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item,

Welcoming the oral report presented by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics on the progress achieved so far by the Working Group in fulfilling its mandate,

Highly appreciative of the accomplishments of the Working Group, which include:

(a) The distribution of a large number of computers under a technical assistance programme to enable the missions of the developing countries to overcome the difficulty of hardware availability;

(b) Informatics symposia, which are working to build a strong collaboration among the United Nations, Member States and the private sector for the pursuit of common objectives;

(c) The programme of outreach from the United Nations to academic institutions through videoconferencing,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution A/52/233 of 26 June 1998, in which the Assembly emphasized that coordinated efforts by Governments and private, public and international organizations would be required to address the year 2000 problem, *Deeply appreciative* that the work of the Working Group has not involved any additional expenditures, and that its needs have been met from within existing resources,

Highly appreciative that the work done by the Working Group has already resulted in savings for the United Nations and its Member States, and has created opportunities for further savings,

Taking note with deep interest of the proposed initiatives of the Working Group, including the promotion of computer-based decision-making techniques to facilitate the drafting of resolutions and documents in ways that would accelerate the reaching of agreements in the drafting process, and the employment of modern information technology for the development activities of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the work done by the Working Group will support and facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with a view to expanding the use of information technology and the availability and transparency of information in order to further facilitate access to United Nations information in all countries,

Agreeing with the assessment in the report of the Working Group that further work needs to be done by the Working Group to fulfil its mandate,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on action taken by the United Nations to implement Council resolution 1997/1,[130]

1. *Reiterates once again* the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United Nations and for observers, through, *inter alia*, their permanent missions, to the growing number of computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations;

2. *Calls* for the urgent and continued implementation of measures required to achieve these objectives;

3. *Reaffirms* the continuing need for representatives of States to be closely consulted and actively associated with the respective executive and governing bodies of United Nations institutions dealing with informatics within the United Nations system, so that the specific needs of States as internal end-users can be given due priority;

4. *Decides* that the action programme to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States should continue to be implemented from within existing resources and in full consultation with the representatives of States;

5. *Commends highly* the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for the concrete actions it has taken and for the impressive results it has produced in pursuance of its mandate;

6. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Working Group for one more year, from within existing resources, for the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item and for facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to use of information technology;

7. *Emphasizes* the need for global cooperation to ensure timely and effective response to the year 2000 challenge;

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[130] E/1998/44.

8. *Requests* the Working Group to continue its work on an information management strategy;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999 on the follow-up action taken on the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group.

45th plenary meeting
29 July 1998

1998/30
Proclamation of an international year of mountains

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1997/45 of 22 July 1997 on the proclamation of an international year of mountains,

Recalling also its resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in which it recognized the contribution that the celebration of international years could make to the furtherance of international cooperation and understanding,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the proclamation of an international year of mountains, in which it was recognized that the proclamation of an international year of mountains would provide an impetus for achieving sustainable mountain development,[131]

Recommends that the General Assembly at its fifty-third session proclaim the year 2002 as the International Year of Mountains.

45th plenary meeting
29 July 1998

1998/31
International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001–2010)

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution at its fifty-third session:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997 proclaiming the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, as well as its resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997 on a culture of peace,

"*Taking into account* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/54 of 17 April 1998 entitled 'Towards a culture of peace',[132]

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[131] E/1998/68, para. 16.

[132] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

"*Recalling* the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995–2004),

"*Taking into account* the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled 'Towards a culture of peace',

"*Aware* that the task of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war requires transformation towards a culture of peace, which consists of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society,

"*Recognizing* that enormous harm and suffering are caused to children through different forms of violence at every level of society throughout the world and that a culture of peace and non-violence promotes respect for life and dignity of every human being without prejudice or discrimination of any kind,

"*Recognizing also* the role of education in constructing a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular by teaching the practice of peace and non-violence to children, which will promote the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"*Emphasizing* that the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, by which they learn to live together in peace and harmony which will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and cooperation, should emanate from adults and be instilled in children,

"*Underlining* that the proposed international decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world will contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace based on the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and on respect for human rights, democracy and tolerance, the promotion of development, education for peace, the free flow of information and the wider participation of women as an integral approach to preventing violence and conflicts, and efforts aimed at the creation of conditions for peace and its consolidation,

"*Convinced* that such a decade, at the beginning of the new millennium, would greatly assist the efforts of the international community to foster peace, harmony, all human rights, democracy and development throughout the world,

"1. *Proclaims* the period 2001–2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World;

"2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and a draft programme of action to promote the implementation of the Decade at local, national, regional and international levels, and to coordinate the activities of the Decade;

"3. *Invites* Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of peace and non-violence is taught at all levels in their respective societies, including in educational institutions;

"4. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, and invites non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and groups, educational institutions, artists and the media to actively support the Decade for the benefit of every child of the world;

"5. *Decides* to consider, at its fifty-fifth session, the question of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001–2010) under the agenda item entitled 'Culture of peace'."

45th plenary meeting
29 July 1998

1998/32

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/207 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling also its resolution 1997/67 of 25 July 1997,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[133] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Stressing the importance of the revival of the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, and the principle of land for peace as well as the full and timely implementation of the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation impedes efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan,

Gravely concerned about the deterioration of economic and living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan, and the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of their natural resources,

Aware of the important work being done by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people,

Conscious of the urgent need for the development of the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and for the improvement of the living conditions of the Palestinian people as a key element of a lasting peace and stability,

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[133] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

1. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all of the occupied Palestinian territory and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the territory, including the removal of restrictions on going into and from East Jerusalem, and the freedom of movement to and from the outside world;

2. *Also stresses* the vital importance of the operation and construction of the Gaza airport, the seaport in Gaza and safe passage to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people;

3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its measures against the Palestinian people, in particular the closure of the occupied Palestinian territory, the enforced isolation of Palestinian towns, the destruction of homes and the isolation of Jerusalem;

4. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of these resources;

5. *Also reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and an obstacle to economic and social development;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories under the auspices of the Secretary-General;

7. *Urges* Member States to encourage private foreign investment in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in infrastructure, job-creation projects and social development, in order to alleviate the hardship of the Palestinian people and improve living conditions;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include, in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

9. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its substantive session of 1999.

45th plenary meeting
29 July 1998

1998/33
Question of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/7 of 3 April 1998,[134] in which the Commission approved the text of the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commission on Human Rights for finalizing the draft declaration;

2. *Approves* the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, as contained in the annex to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/7 and recommends it to the General Assembly for adoption at its fifty-third session;

3. *Recommends* that, after adoption by the General Assembly, the full text of the Declaration should be disseminated as widely as possible.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

1998/34
Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/14 of 9 April 1998,[134]

1. *Authorizes* the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights established in accordance with Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995[135] to meet for a period of ten working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, the costs of the meeting to be met from within existing resources;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend all necessary facilities, from within existing United Nations resources, to the working group for its meetings.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

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[134] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[135] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 3* (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1), chap. II, sect. A.

1998/35
Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/34 of 17 April 1998,[136]

1. *Authorizes* an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights to meet for a period of two weeks, with a possibility of extending it to three weeks, within existing resources, prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission in order to continue or conclude the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;[137]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend to the working group all necessary facilities for its meetings and to transmit the report of the working group[138] to Governments, the specialized agencies, the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

1998/36
Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming agreed conclusions 1993/2 of the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1993 on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera,[139]

Recalling its resolutions 1994/34 of 29 July 1994 and 1995/63 of 28 July 1995 and General Assembly resolutions 49/135 of 19 December 1994 and 50/128 of 20 December 1995, Agenda 21[140] and General Assembly resolution S/19-2 of 28 June 1997,

Noting with concern that malaria and diarrhoeal diseases remain prevalent in developing countries, especially in Africa, and also noting their dire consequences for health and development in Africa,

Recognizing that these diseases especially afflict people living in poverty, that effective and affordable means of preventing and treating them are available and that combating them is an effective and essential element in eradicating poverty and fostering development,

Noting the leadership role in global malaria control given to the World Health Organization in General Assembly resolution 49/135 and Economic and Social resolution

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[136] Ibid.

[137] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

[138] E/CN.4/1998/42 and Corr.1.

[139] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/48/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect. B, para. 33.

[140] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

1995/63, and the role of the World Health Organization in directing and coordinating international efforts to prevent and control these diseases,

Acknowledging the important contributions of the United Nations funds and programmes and the role of the United Nations Children's Fund and other bodies of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and a wide variety of individuals and organizations in controlling these diseases,

Noting in particular the critical role of industry in supporting research and development of vaccines, drugs and diagnostic tests that will further improve the efficacy of preventive and control efforts and the catalytic role being played by the United Nations Development Programme/World Bank/World Health Organization Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases in the development of new disease control products, in collaboration with industry,

Warmly acknowledging the statement supporting malaria prevention and control made during the summit meeting of the Heads of State of the Group of Eight, held in Birmingham in May 1998, and the pledge of 60 million pounds made at that time in support of the Roll Back Malaria initiative of the World Health Organization,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera;[141]

2. *Supports* the actions taken in 1997 and 1998 with respect to malaria prevention and control in the context of African economic recovery and development by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

3. *Appreciates* the actions taken to strengthen research in endemic countries of Africa under the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria in Africa, an initiative widely supported by members of the international development community and by scientists within those endemic countries;

4. *Welcomes* the Roll Back Malaria initiative of the World Health Organization supporting the existing African initiative on malaria;

5. *Requests* the United Nations, and appeals to international organizations, multilateral financial institutions, the specialized agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other groups, to join as partners in this initiative by, *inter alia*, contributing technical and financial support;

6. *Notes* that vaccines provide some of the most effective means of preventing disease and that vaccine development, although now made more feasible by multiple developments in the field of biotechnology, remains a difficult and long-term task highly deserving of increased financial support;

7. *Stresses* the importance of adopting and implementing national plans of action in countries where malaria is endemic in conformity with the Global Strategy for Malaria Control of the World Health Organization;[142]

8. *Urges* international development partners, in collaboration with private industry, to intensify their efforts to develop and widely distribute vaccines and other remedies against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera;

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[141] E/1998/20.

[142] World Health Organization, *A Global Strategy for Malaria Control* (Geneva, 1993).

9. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular the donor countries, to expand, where possible, fund-raising channels and to provide adequate financial resources and medical and technical assistance to the affected developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, for the successful implementation of work plans and projects and the achievement of significant progress, in both the short and the medium term, in controlling malaria, and to intensify basic and applied research on anti-malarial vaccines as a priority;

10. *Urges* the Director-General of the World Health Organization to continue to provide, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund and other concerned United Nations agencies and programmes and other relevant international organizations such as the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research and the International Vaccine Institute, technical expertise and support to endemic countries;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 on the implementation of the present resolution, to be prepared by the Director-General of the World Health Organization in collaboration with other relevant organizations, organs, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

1998/37
International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997, by which the Assembly proclaimed the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace,

Recalling also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997, requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit a consolidated report containing a draft declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace to the Assembly at its fifty-third session,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the current state of preparations for the International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000,[143] for which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has been designated the focal point;

2. *Requests* the General Assembly to adopt a programme of action for the year 2000;

3. *Stresses* that an international year for the culture of peace at the turn of the millennium would provide the opportunity to boost the efforts of the international community to establish and promote an everlasting culture of peace;

4. *Recognizes*, therefore, that the promotion of a culture of peace should be a high-profile theme in the several mobilizing events and evaluations being planned through the year 2000, at the national, regional and international levels, such as the following:

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[143] E/1998/52, annex.

(a) The International Year affords the opportunity to make national actions broad-based, providing a special opportunity to promote peace, non-violence, reconciliation and national unity and to prevent violent conflicts;

(b) At the regional and international levels, the International Year will underline the priorities of peace, all human rights development and democracy and the central role that concerted action by different entities of the United Nations system can play in promoting a culture of peace;

(c) The programme of activities for the International Year should take into account, as appropriate, the proposed Millennium Assembly during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in the year 2000;

(d) The programme of action for the promotion of the International Year should take into account the agreements adopted at recent major global conferences and summits.[144]

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

1998/38

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations[145] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[146]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[147]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 containing the Declaration, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

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[144] See *Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990*, Inter-Agency Commission for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990; *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8); and *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[145] A/53/130 and Corr.1.

[146] E/1998/76.

[147] E/1998/SR.39.

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating thereto,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries

and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

10. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

11. *Welcomes* the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

12. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

13. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations;

14. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 1998 of the Economic and Social Council;

16. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999;

18. *Decides* to keep these questions under continuous review.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

1998/39
Status of the least developed countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/210 of 18 December 1997 which included, *inter alia*, a reference to an assessment of the usefulness of a vulnerability index as a criterion for designation of the least developed countries,

Noting that the requested assessment has not been completed,

Welcoming the proposals to continue the work on improvements in criteria and methodology for designation of the least developed countries,[148]

Taking note of the content of the letter dated 8 July 1998 from of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu to the President of the Economic and Social Council on the proposed graduation of Vanuatu from the list of the least developed countries[149] wherein reasons were advanced to support the position that the review of Vanuatu's status should be deferred to the year 2000 and which was circulated as a document of the Council,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for such an assessment to be made in respect of a decision on the graduation of Vanuatu from the list of the least developed countries;

2. *Notes* that the Economic and Social Council will discuss the work programme of the Committee for Development Planning during the Council's organizational session for 1999 and in this regard stresses the need for the Committee to include in its report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 an assessment of the usefulness of a vulnerability index as a criterion for designation of the least developed countries and

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[148] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 14* (E/1998/34), chap. IV, sect. A.

[149] E/1998/89, annex.

consideration of the work of all relevant international agencies on the vulnerability of small States;

3. *Decides* to postpone its consideration of the graduation of Vanuatu until the above-mentioned report of the Committee for Development Planning has been submitted and to take a decision accordingly.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

1998/40
Declaring the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries in which the Council recognized the contribution of international years to the furtherance of international cooperation and understanding,

Recalling also Agenda 21,[150] which was adopted by one hundred and eighty-two Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), on 14 June 1992, and the conclusions of the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session relative to sustainable tourism,

Stressing that the implementation of Agenda 21 requires the full integration of sustainable development in the tourism industry in order to ensure, *inter alia*, that travel and tourism provide a source of income for many people; that travel and tourism contribute to the conservation, protection and restoration of the Earth's ecosystem; that international trade in travel and tourism services takes place on a sustainable basis; and that environmental protection is an integral part of tourism development,

Stressing also the need to promote the implementation of international conventions on environment and development, including those on biodiversity and climate change,

Bearing in mind the need for international cooperation in promoting tourism within the framework of sustainable development so as to meet the needs of present tourists and host countries and regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future, managing resources to fulfil economic, social and aesthetic needs, and maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems,

Recognizing the support of the World Tourism Organization for the importance of ecotourism, and particularly of the designation of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of world peace,

Considering that the designation of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism will encourage the intensification of cooperative efforts by Governments and international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to achieve the aims of Agenda 21 in promoting development and the protection of the environment,

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[150] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

1. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it declare the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism;

2. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations, and members of the specialized agencies and pertinent intergovernmental and governmental organizations, to exert all possible efforts on behalf of the success of the Year, in particular regarding ecotourism in developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Sustainable Development, in the framework of its discussion of tourism during its seventh session, to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, supportive measures and activities which will contribute to a successful Year;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in accordance with the guidelines for future international years as contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, necessary support to ensure the success of the Year, including widespread dissemination of pertinent information;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the World Tourism Organization and the World Travel and Tourism Council, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report containing:

(a) Programmes and activities undertaken by Governments and interested organizations during the Year;

(b) An assessment of the results achieved in realizing the aims and objectives of the Year, particularly in terms of encouraging ecotourism in developing countries;

(c) Recommendations to further advance the promotion of ecotourism within the framework of sustainable development.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

1998/41

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982, 38/149 of 19 December 1983, 39/229 of 18 December 1984 and 44/226 of 22 December 1989, as well as Assembly decisions 47/439 of 22 December 1992 and 50/431 of 20 December 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment,[151] which contains a review of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments,

Noting with satisfaction the continued close collaboration between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation of the Consolidated List,

Taking note of the successful conclusion of the negotiations to develop a legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade (Rotterdam Convention),

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[151] A/53/156–E/1998/78.

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment and notes the progress being achieved in increasing the number of countries that participate in the preparation of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the cooperation extended by Governments in the preparation of the Consolidated List and urges all Governments, in particular those that have not yet done so, to provide the necessary information to relevant organizations for inclusion in future issues of the Consolidated List;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to prepare the Consolidated List focusing on chemicals and pharmaceutical products in alternate years, with the same frequency for each official language in publishing the Consolidated List as was envisioned in General Assembly resolutions 39/229 and 44/226;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to developing countries, at their request, for the establishment and/or strengthening of national capacity for managing hazardous chemicals and pharmaceutical products;

5. *Urges* the adoption of the agreed text of the Rotterdam Convention at the diplomatic conference to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 10 and 11 September 1998 and calls for a speedy ratification by the signatories of the Convention, aimed at its early entry into force;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to continue to utilize the work being undertaken by relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in this area, as well as that being carried out under international agreements and conventions in related areas in updating the Consolidated List;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report every three years, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/229, on the implementation of the present resolution and of previous Assembly resolutions on the same subject.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998

1998/42

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and 50/120 of 20 December 1995 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recalling also the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

Noting the progress made and the work that remains to be accomplished by the United Nations system in the full implementation of the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 50/120, *Recalling* Council resolution 1996/42 of 26 July 1996, in which the Council urged all funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations development system to identify measurable targets to strengthen their monitoring and evaluation capabilities, and to incorporate those targets into their respective management plans so as to implement Assembly resolution 50/120,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 52/203 of 18 December 1997, in particular paragraph 9, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General when presenting his comprehensive report on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system at the fifty-third session of the Assembly, to make recommendations for the implementation of reform initiatives on operational activities, bearing in mind the views of Member States,

Strongly reaffirming the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries,

Stressing the need for continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance, and welcoming steps that have been taken towards that end,

Noting the urgency of a productive outcome from the current discussions on funding strategies being pursued by the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes towards reversing the declining trend in core resources,

Considering the linkage that exists between the recommendations made in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development"[152] and the triennial policy review of operational activities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[153]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when finalizing his report on the triennial policy review for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, to take into account the views and comments expressed by States during the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, when finalizing his report on the triennial policy review, to take into account the discussions on funding strategies currently taking place in the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, when preparing recommendations for the next triennial policy review, to consider the implications of steps adopted by the United Nations system to implement reform initiatives on operational activities, as agreed in General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, taking fully into account the views expressed by States in conjunction with work that remains to be completed pursuant to Assembly resolution 50/120;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, when finalizing his report on the triennial policy review, to provide an analysis of the state of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120 and other related resolutions on operational activities, and to make appropriate recommendations;

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[152] E/1998/54 and Corr.1

[153] E/1998/48 and Corr.1 and Add.1

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, when finalizing his report on the triennial policy review, to take into account relevant aspects of the agreed conclusions of the humanitarian affairs segment of the Council;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the General Assembly on the triennial policy review, taking into account the Council's discussions on item 3 (a) of the agenda for the Council's substantive session of 1998, entitled "Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development", and the outcome thereof, to include a section on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the operational activities of the United Nations system, containing recommendations to that end;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Council's coordination, guidance and oversight roles in the implementation by the United Nations system of the triennial policy review of operational activities, to make recommendations, when finalizing his report on the triennial policy review, on the possible themes that could be discussed at the working-level meetings of the operational activities segments of the 1999, 2000 and 2001 substantive sessions of the Council, taking into account the necessary preparatory work for the following triennial policy review;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to undertake, as appropriate, in close consultation and collaboration with recipient Governments and donors, impact evaluations of the themes on operational activities identified by the General Assembly for discussion at future sessions of the Council;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the continued participation of the specialized agencies and regional commissions of the United Nations system, and the ongoing collaboration with the World Bank, in relevant aspects of United Nations operational activities on the basis of the national priorities of the recipient countries.

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31 July 1998

1998/43

Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[154]

Affirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[155] and for achieving the overall goal of gender equality,

Recognizing the importance of integrating a gender perspective in development as well as in all other policy areas and of addressing the disparity of opportunities between women and men at all stages of their lives if gender equality is to be achieved,

Welcoming the steps already taken by various entities of the United Nations system, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Secretariat, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and other subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Executive Committees, as well as specialized agencies, funds and programmes, to implement agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Council,

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[154] A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

[155] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

1. *Invites* the United Nations system in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, to take into account the different obstacles to the development and empowerment of women in all regions and their roles as actors and beneficiaries of development;

2. *Reaffirms* that the recommendations contained in its agreed conclusions 1997/2 should be implemented as a matter of urgency and at the latest by the time of the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2000, and calls on all parts of the United Nations system to take immediate action in this regard;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system";[156]

4. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system, in particular the funds and programmes in their operational activities, to adopt a comprehensive, integrated and multisectoral approach to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat to contribute to the inclusion of a gender perspective in the reports of the Secretariat and reiterates that all reports from entities of the Secretariat should reflect a gender perspective;

6. *Urges* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to provide suggestions to the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular to other functional commissions, on further measures to implement the strategy of gender mainstreaming;

7. *Decides* to pay particular attention to the feminization of poverty, its causes and remedies when reviewing the theme of poverty eradication in 1999, and to ensure a gender perspective when reviewing the implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, and requests that any documentation to be prepared for this purpose provide an adequate basis towards this end;

8. *Decides* to continue to monitor annually the way in which its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies implement the Beijing Platform for Action, *inter alia*, by mainstreaming a gender perspective, under the agenda items "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits" and "Advancement of women".

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[156] E/1998/64.

1998/44

Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its productive dialogue with a broad range of representatives of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations at its session on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, held from 13 to 15 May 1998, and taking note with appreciation of the summary of that session by the President of the Economic and Social Council[157] and of the report of the Secretary-General[158] as well as the guidance provided by Member States,

Reiterating the need for integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, while recognizing the specific identity and integrity of each conference,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1 on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,[159]

Noting that the work concerning the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", as well as on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, on mainstreaming the gender perspective and in many other areas, addresses key issues related to integrated conference follow-up and is complementary to the present resolution,

Reaffirming the importance of the progress made towards meeting the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences,

Recognizing that, while each country has the primary responsibility for the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences, the United Nations system is an important instrument in helping countries to meet this challenge,

I

Cross-cutting issues

1. *Reiterates* that poverty eradication and improving the living conditions of people everywhere are key development objectives of the Council's efforts to ensure integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences;

2. *Reaffirms* the urgent need for the timely and full implementation of all commitments, agreements and targets agreed upon at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including by the United Nations system and international financial institutions, and, in this context, notes the efforts to achieve those targets as well as the target of reducing by one half, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty;

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[157] E/1998/90.

[158] E/1998/19.

[159] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.

3. *Reiterates* the importance of mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for implementing conference outcomes and, in this regard, reaffirms the commitments undertaken to fulfil as soon as possible the agreed United Nations targets for official development assistance, and stresses the need for further progress in implementing the 20/20 initiative for interested countries;

4. *Stresses* the important role of civil society in support of the implementation of conference goals, calls upon Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to support the participation of non-governmental organizations, particularly those from developing countries, in the conference follow-up processes of the United Nations, stresses also that efforts should be made to facilitate the balanced participation of non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries, and invites the Non-governmental Liaison Service to play an active role in involving non-governmental organizations, particularly those from developing countries, in United Nations conference follow-up activities, as appropriate, and in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

II

Coordination and management role of the Economic and Social Council

Functional commissions

5. *Notes* the results obtained from the review of the functional commissions and, in that context, agrees that the Council, on the basis of an integrated report by the Secretary-General, will consider annually the relevant outcomes of the functional commissions on conference follow-up, for transmission, as appropriate, to the funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

Regional commissions

6. *Notes* the results obtained from the review of the regional commissions and, in that context, invites the regional commissions to pursue conference follow-up on a systematic basis, within their respective mandates and priorities by, *inter alia*, enhancing their interaction with other parts of the United Nations system, in particular the functional commissions;

Executive boards of the funds and programmes

7. *Invites* its Bureau and secretariat to convey the outcome of its deliberations to the executive boards of the funds and programmes, and requests the executive boards to take into account the Council's guidance on the coordinated implementation of conferences, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities;

III

Inter-agency coordination

8. *Welcomes* the role played by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and the contribution of its ad hoc task forces and its standing machinery, in promoting United Nations system-wide coordination and coordinated and integrated inter-agency follow-up to conferences at all levels, also welcomes the efforts of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure a clear sharing of tasks and interaction within its standing machinery on the follow-up to conferences, encourages regular interaction between the inter-agency committees of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and enhanced

interaction between the relevant executive committees and the standing bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, further welcomes and encourages the interaction between the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, on the follow-up to conferences, and requests that collaboration among organizations of the system on conference follow-up also include the use of networks of United Nations system organizations that make use of task managers and information technology and liaise with the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

9. *Also welcomes* the briefings on the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination given in 1998, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure more intensive and improved interaction between the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Council and its functional and regional commissions, *inter alia*, by providing briefings after each meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on a regular and timely basis;

10. *Urges* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to disseminate widely throughout the United Nations system, including through greater use of the Internet, the results of its deliberations, including the work of the task forces, and to make the outputs of the task forces available to intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system for their consideration when integrating conference goals into their work programmes, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system, bearing in mind the guidance of member States, to fully use and implement the outputs of these task forces;

11. *Stresses* the role of the specialized agencies in the implementation and follow-up to conference outcomes, calls for further interaction between the Council and the specialized agencies, and encourages more active and high-level participation, particularly at the level of executive heads, by the specialized agencies in its sessions, especially in the consideration of conference follow-up;

IV

Country-level follow-up

12. *Reaffirms* that national Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation and evaluation of conference follow-up, calls on all countries to continue to assess the progress made in implementing conference outcomes in those countries, and encourages the dissemination of best practices;

13. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in the coordination of conference follow-up at the country level and urges further intensified efforts to this end, reaffirms that the resident coordinators, within their mandates, have an important role to play in assisting Governments and enhancing United Nations system-wide coordination, and in this regard calls on the resident coordinators to facilitate through their annual reports an evaluation of the coordination of the United Nations system activities relating to conference implementation and to disseminate best practices, and invites the United Nations Development Group to fully exercise its important role in ensuring coordinated United Nations follow-up to conferences;

14. *Encourages* the resident coordinator system, within existing mechanisms and in close collaboration with Governments, to continue to foster a broad dialogue with and to support the involvement of all relevant actors in the follow-up to conferences; and encourages the establishment of thematic groups on cross-cutting conference themes, as well as the full utilization of collaborative programming frameworks, including the country strategy note, where they exist and the ongoing pilot phase of the United Nations

Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate, to support, at the request of Governments, the development of national strategies and action plans for integrated conference follow-up; and also encourages greater interaction between the country representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of integrated and coordinated implementation of conference outcomes, including commitments made under those conferences, in countries not covered by the resident coordinator system, and calls on those countries to continue to assess the progress they have made in implementing conference outcomes and encourages the dissemination of best practices in this regard, including through their existing national voluntary reporting mechanisms;

V

Evaluation of the integrated implementation of conference follow-up

16. *Reaffirms* the importance of the monitoring and evaluation, by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, of the performance of relevant parts of the United Nations system, in accordance with the priorities set by Member States, with respect to assisting countries to meet the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences, and calls upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to carry out evaluations of the impact of their activities in support of the coordinated implementation of conferences, taking into account their existing practices;

17. *Agrees* to consider conducting in the year 2000, as a possible contribution to the Millennium Assembly, without prejudice to the discussion of this issue by the General Assembly, a review by the Council of progress made within the United Nations system in the promotion of integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 on possible modalities of such a review;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the Council in 1999.

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1998/45

Suggested guidelines for addressing the year 2000 problem of computers

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/233 of 26 June 1998 on the global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, called upon the Economic and Social Council to prepare guidelines upon which Member States would be able to draw in addressing the diverse aspects of this problem,

Recognizing the serious risks posed by the year 2000 problem and the urgent need for Member States and all parts of the United Nations system to achieve compliance well in advance of the inflexible date of 31 December 1999,

1. *Adopts* the suggested guidelines for addressing the year 2000 problem contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure broad dissemination of the suggested guidelines for maximum utilization by Member States and those areas of the United Nations system that are not yet year 2000–compliant, as a matter of urgency.

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Annex

Suggested guidelines for addressing the year 2000 problem

The objective of the present guidelines is to raise the awareness of Governments on the year 2000 problem and compile a general list of issues that should be considered in this context. The problem stems from the fact that many hardware and software systems use only the last two digits of any four-digit designation of a given year to identify that year. Hence, if not converted by the target date, 31 December 1999, those systems will recognize "00" not as the year 2000 but instead as the year 1900. Electronic systems that are not year 2000–compliant and involve processes based on dates will either shut down, produce meaningless and misleading results, or revert to some other date, as a result of which whole sectors of the economy and critical government operations could experience significant disruptions.

Although there is an abundance of material available on the Internet from expert groups and government and private institutions warning about the impact of the date issue, it is felt that there is still a need to stress the complexity of the problem. The problem could affect not only businesses and Governments but also international cooperation. If one partner in a private or intergovernmental network is not year 2000–compliant, this could create a domino effect, causing the whole network of cooperation to break down and affecting even compliant segments. There is also a misconception that the problem is limited to computer systems. In fact, all equipment configurations with embedded systems that are using code or chips and involve handling of dates could be affected. Misunderstanding of the year 2000 problem as being a problem of individual computer systems has led to the belief that the finding of solutions can be left to technical experts. However, recognition of the fact that the millennium bug affects a wide range of different systems and that a domino effect is possible has led to the understanding of the year 2000 problem as being also a management problem.

This brief approach attempts to summarize the issues involved and provide general guidelines for attacking the problem; for more detailed information, readers are referred to the Internet and the other sources of information mentioned above. Although the four-step procedure outlined below is geared to government institutions, most of it applies equally to the private sector.

1. *Problem awareness*:

   - Governments and international organizations, at the highest level, should announce their commitment to meeting the year 2000 challenge. Progress should be publicly reported at regular intervals;
   - A year 2000 awareness campaign should be initiated and directed at target groups, such as small businesses and local government agencies, that may still not be aware of the issue and its complexities;
   - A comprehensive year 2000 strategy should be developed that would allow Governments to address the problem in a coordinated manner. The strategic

recommendations should be translated into tactical objectives by local governments or executing agents;

- Cooperation between Governments and the private sector should be initiated at all levels of government, including national and international levels.

2. *Problem assessment*

- A management structure should be put in place that assigns clear responsibility and authority for addressing the various aspects of the problem;
- Year 2000 compliance should be clearly defined in operational terms, and standards should be established for determining what constitutes compliance. For critical systems, a formal certification procedure should be considered;
- Some consensus regarding the order of criticality of processes should be reached. Criteria to be considered are: preventing loss of life, allowing effective government, maintaining civil order, avoiding large-scale hardship, allowing continuation of commercial activities, preventing environmental damage, and so forth;
- Sectors of the infrastructure and systems of national importance for which compliance must be assured should be identified. The list should include but not be limited to transport and communication, utilities, finance, national security, public health, nuclear facilities and international relations;
- Each organization responsible for providing critical services should be encouraged or required to develop a plan to solve their year 2000 problems. The plan should outline steps to be taken in systems assessment, repair, testing, implementation and coordination with other entities;
- For areas that are not of primary national importance, a risk analysis should be carried out to establish an order of priority for assuring compliance. It is now recognized that 100 per cent compliance will be difficult to achieve. For low-risk areas where non-compliance will have little impact, action could be delayed;
- To avoid a domino effect, interdependencies between systems of low priority and areas of national importance must be identified;
- The interface between national systems and the systems of other Governments should be defined. Particular attention should also be given to private-sector service providers (communication, air traffic control, power supply and so forth) who operate on a regional or global level but are an integral part of the national infrastructure;
- Mechanisms for disseminating candid information about the status of remediation should be established;
- Questions regarding public and private sector liability for damages resulting from non-compliance and warranty issues should be investigated.

3. *Problem solution*:

- Validation strategies and testing procedures for all converted systems or replaced systems and their components should be established;
- A manpower analysis should be carried out to determine the human resources required for the conversion. Many countries, especially developing countries, are already experiencing a shortage of skilled information technology workers.

This problem will be aggravated by the year 2000 issue. Developing countries will be particularly vulnerable;

- Budgetary provisions must be made to secure funds for new hardware, conversion software, human resources and related costs. Further, the financial responsibility for the cost of conversion must be determined. Some countries may consider funding by international organizations, especially the World Bank, which has grant loan funds available;
- Suppliers and designers of systems should be identified and integrated into the validation and testing process, whenever possible;
- As regards applying the validation and testing process established earlier, systems will be certified or steps to convert systems will be taken according to their priority. Since problems and their solution may be similar across applications and processes, a mechanism for information exchange and consolidation of activities should be established at the national and international levels.

4. *Contingency planning*

- Governments should establish general contingency plans for all systems and activities of national importance and the systems that support them for continuity of operations. Back-up arrangements should be made at the national and international levels;
- A hotline should be established so that the public may report possible millennium-related problems and obtain assistance in case of emergencies;
- The disaster recovery plans of all systems should be reviewed and updated to avoid loss of data and ensure the resumption of operation as soon as possible;
- In case year 2000 compliance cannot be achieved before 31 December 1999, some critical systems may have to be temporarily decommissioned and replaced by back-up processes. Planning for the establishment of back-up processes for critical infrastructure systems should start immediately. It is important to determine how far in advance such plans will need to be implemented so as to be effective in the event that the deadline cannot be met.

1998/46

Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997,

1. *Adopts* the texts contained in annexes I, II and III to the present resolution;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the functional commissions for the interest they have taken in reviewing their working methods and encourages them to continue to do so, taking into account the suggestions and recommendations appearing in annex II to the present resolution and to adopt practices best suited to their mandates, priorities and responsibilities;

3. *Welcomes* the reform measures undertaken by the regional commissions and encourages them to continue to undertake, under the aegis of their respective

intergovernmental bodies, further measures to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness as presented in annex III to the present resolution;

4. *Decides* to continue its deliberations on pending issues pursuant to the mandates given to it, as contained in General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B;

5. *Also decides* to hold, at its resumed substantive session of 1998, elections for the composition of the bodies as laid down in annex I to the present resolution, so that these bodies are fully constituted from 1 January 1999, and requests its Bureau to work out appropriate mechanism for the holding of the elections for this purpose;

6. *Further decides* to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 70 of annex I to Assembly resolution 50/227 and paragraphs 9 and 10 of Assembly resolution 52/12 B.

47th plenary meeting
31 July 1998

Annex I

Subsidiary bodies identified for restructuring and revitalization

A

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall remain a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, and shall continue to meet biennially for two weeks.

2. The Commission is encouraged to sharpen the focus of its work, devoting particular attention to the issues of transfer of technology and capacity-building, in particular of the developing countries. In regard to technology transfer, examination of concrete applications/activities is encouraged.

3. Effective coordination shall be established with all other functional commissions and with the Economic and Social Council. The Commission should concentrate in particular on working closely with the Commission on Sustainable Development and with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/Trade and Development Board. Methods to be employed to enhance these linkages should include the following:

(a) Closer communication should be established between the Bureaux of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as with other Bureaux of the functional commissions, as appropriate;

(b) Regular communication should take place between the secretariats/offices servicing the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/Trade and Development Board;

(c) The outcome of the meetings of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should continue to be made available to the States Members of the United Nations, including through briefings to delegations in Geneva and New York by the Bureau and secretariat of the Commission;

(d) The outcome of the meetings of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should be shared for information purposes with all relevant functional commissions and other relevant United Nations bodies.

4. The coordination between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and other relevant United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions, should be improved and made more effective.

5. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development shall continue to serve as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The Commission should make maximum use of the expertise that the secretariat of the Conference can offer, while also drawing, as appropriate, on expertise from elsewhere in the United Nations system, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and relevant specialized agencies.

6. The membership of the Commission is to be reduced from fifty-three to thirty-three with the following geographical distribution: eight members from African States; seven members from Asian States; six members from Latin American and Caribbean States; four members from Eastern European States; and eight members from Western European and other States. The term of office is to be four years.

B

Committee for Development Planning

7. The Committee for Development Planning shall be renamed the Committee for Development Policy and shall continue to be a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.

8. It shall comprise twenty-four independent experts with a good mix of expertise, who are to be drawn from the fields of economic development, social development and environmental protection, in order to avoid the need to engage the assistance of consultants and so as to reflect an adequate geographical and gender balance. Membership should include those who are able to contribute on emerging issues and to the multilateral process. The experts should be nominated by the Secretary-General, after consultation with interested Governments, and approved by the Economic and Social Council. The term of office is to be three years.

9. The Committee shall continue the triennial review of the status of least developed countries, and shall meet on this issue once every three years.

10. The Economic and Social Council should decide on an appropriate work programme for the Committee for Development Policy. In January/February of each year, the Council, at the time of deciding the themes for its substantive session, should advise the Committee about the theme(s) to be considered at the Committee's annual session, not to exceed five working days, to be held in April/May. The Committee will submit its report to the Council at its substantive session in July. The report will also include the Committee's proposals to the Council concerning its work programme for the following year, for consideration and approval at the next organizational session of the Council in January/February.

11. The General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council can also propose, through the Council, issues for consideration by the Committee for Development Policy.

12. Dissemination of information on the Committee's work should be improved, including, *inter alia*, by establishing an Internet Web site and through a presentation by its Bureau on the outcome of its deliberations.

13. In undertaking its responsibilities, the Committee on Development Policy should, in addition to holding its formal meetings, explore the scope for effective preparations for their deliberations via informal networking arrangements. The Secretariat should provide assistance in this regard.

C

Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development

D

Committee on Natural Resources

14. The two Committees shall be merged into a single expert body to be named the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development which shall serve as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.

15. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development should comprise, with due attention to geographical representation and gender balance, two sub-groups of twelve experts nominated by Governments and approved by the Economic and Social Council. One sub-group should deal with issues relating to energy, the other with issues relating to water resources. The geographical distribution is to be as follows: six members from African States; five members from Asian States; four members from Latin American and Caribbean States; three members from Eastern European States; and six members from Western European and other States. The term of office is to be four years.

16. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development shall meet biennially for two weeks on the understanding that the days available should be divided evenly in a flexible manner between the two sub-groups.

17. Upon the recommendation of both or either of the expert groups of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, the Economic and Social Council may decide modalities for the establishment of ad hoc expert groups, when necessary, to consider issues relating to minerals.

18. In addition, the General Assembly may invite the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions to consider effective ways to address, within their respective competences, relevant aspects of this issue.

19. In formulating its programme of work, to be presented to the Economic and Social Council for consideration and decision, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development should take into full account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, so as to ensure that its own work programme will be structured in a manner that could enable it to contribute to the work of the Commission. The Council, in considering and deciding on the work programme of the Committee, should ensure the special relationship between the Committee and the Commission and a coherence between their respective work programmes. For its part, the

Commission is requested to consider which aspects of its multi-year work programme the Committee can usefully address.

20. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development should maintain close links with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, as appropriate.

Annex II

Functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council with specific responsibilities for the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences

1. The General Assembly in its resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B mandated review by the Economic and Social Council of the Council's functional commissions.[160] In recent years, the functional commissions have taken an interest in reviewing their own working methods and should continue to do so, benefiting from the experience gained. Each commission should be encouraged to adopt practices best suited to its mandate and responsibilities. In this respect, the following general suggestions and recommendations are provided by the Council to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the functional commissions.

A

Working methods

2. Bearing in mind the interlinkages of issues and their cross-cutting nature, there is a need for the functional commissions to strengthen their coordination, while paying careful attention to the mandates and terms of reference of each commission. The Economic and Social Council has to play a key role in this process. In this context, adoption of multi-year thematic programme for the functional commissions responsible for follow-up to the major conferences can be helpful.

3. For those functional commissions that have more than one theme for discussion, sufficient time should be allocated for each of the priority themes so as to enable Member States to have focused and in-depth discussions, bearing in mind the interlinkages between the priority themes.

4. Inter-sessional meetings can help to focus a commission's work by identifying key elements to be discussed and important problems to be addressed within a specific item pertaining to that work. These meetings should contribute to the preparations for the meeting of a functional commission, but should not be a substitute for intergovernmental debates in the context of the meeting of the commission itself.

5. Meetings hosted and funded by Governments can also provide useful inputs to the work of functional commissions, in relation to their respective work programmes.

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[160] The functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council entrusted with the follow-up to major United Nations conferences are the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, and the Commission on Human Settlements. Although the Commission on Human Settlements is a standing committee, the collective term "functional commissions" is used throughout the present annex.

6. The work of the commission should be organized in such a way as to enable agenda items that may lead to negotiated outcomes to be introduced early, so that there is sufficient time for informal consultation on the outcomes.

7. To avoid duplication or overlap, functional commissions may also be encouraged to request through the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, that another functional commission be charged to look into an issue under consideration by the commission making the request, without overloading the other commission's work programme. Functional commissions may be encouraged to request through the Council, as appropriate, additional inputs from other functional commissions on issues of interest to the commission making the request.

8. Functional commissions should make better use of panels of experts which should have balanced representation so as to facilitate consideration of substantive issues. As far as possible, synopses of statements that panellists propose to make should be circulated to Member States sufficiently in advance to facilitate a well-prepared dialogue. Care should be taken to ensure that panel members focus their presentations on the agenda item(s) under discussion, and not on a related subject, so that adequate time is available for dialogue. Bureaux should ensure that the time allocated to the intergovernmental debate is adequate.

9. Functional commissions should also explore ways to exchange national experiences and best practices in the implementation of effective conference follow-up, including through voluntary national presentations of country experiences and interactive dialogues. The dialogues should focus in particular on lessons learned from national-level conference follow-up. It is also necessary that the Secretariat provide Member States with the highlights of such best practices and lessons learned.

10. Bearing in mind the importance of the general debate in providing useful input for the themes under discussion, the functional commissions should ensure that the debate is focused, adds value and contributes to action-oriented outcomes of the session.

11. Functional commissions must ensure that they add value to the process of implementing the programmes of action adopted by the major global conferences. The commissions should therefore focus on:

(a) Deliberating on the progress achieved and constraints faced as well as action-oriented recommendations on the conference outcomes at the national and international levels;

(b) Fostering the exchange of local, national and regional experiences on implementing conference outcomes;

(c) Reviewing progress achieved at the national and international levels on specific issues under their multi-year work programmes through appropriate reporting systems, so as to draw attention to common experiences, successful approaches and areas of particular difficulty, and to identify new and emerging issues that require priority attention;

(d) Producing clear, concise and action-oriented outcomes of their deliberations.

12. The voluntary submission of national information, including, for example, information in the form of periodic communications or national reports by Governments, represents a valuable contribution to the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the recommendations of relevant conferences. The Economic and Social Council should reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to prepare a standardized and simplified format, which could be used by Governments in preparing information on a single subject or on clusters of subjects.

13. Functional commissions should mainstream a gender perspective in their work by fully implementing agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council,[161] in particular the sixteenth paragraph thereof.

B

Role of the Bureau

14. The Bureau plays a crucial role in the successful outcome of, and in facilitating the preparation for, the meeting. The incoming Bureau should preferably be elected immediately after the conclusion of the previous session of the commission, as appropriate. Therefore, early designation by regional groups of their candidatures, especially for the position of Chairman, is important.

15. Inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau are very useful and important in preparing for the upcoming session. Regular and informal open-ended briefings by the Bureau, in conjunction with the Secretariat and the Member States, on the preparation for the session, need to be further encouraged. In order to enable the Bureau to carry out its functions effectively, consideration should be given to providing appropriate financial support, through extrabudgetary contributions, to members of the Bureau, particularly from the developing countries, so as to enable them to participate in the meetings of the Bureau, in inter-sessional meetings of the commission and in the sessions of the commission itself.

16. The Bureaux of the functional commissions, along with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, are encouraged to enhance coordination, in particular through regular meetings whenever necessary. In addition to meetings, Bureaux should explore the scope for coordination via informal networking arrangements. The Secretariat should provide assistance in this regard.

17. The Bureaux of the functional commissions should conduct transparent and open-ended consultations with Member States, with a view to seeking guidance from, and ensuring greater involvement of, Member States in the preparatory work of the sessions of the commissions.

C

Participation

18. The participation of officials from capitals responsible for the specific follow-up to United Nations conferences, as well as experts, should be encouraged. High-level participation is desirable and will be facilitated by enhancing the quality of deliberations in the functional commissions.

19. Participation of other relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other specialized agencies, should be encouraged, where appropriate.

20. Functional commissions entrusted with conference follow-up have benefited from the breadth of expertise of non-governmental organizations and the capacity of those organizations to support the work of the United Nations. Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, functional commissions should take into account in their deliberations the full diversity of the views of non-governmental

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[161] See A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

organizations at the national, regional and international levels. Efforts should be made to facilitate the balanced participation of non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries.

D

Documentation

21. Reports should be concise, coherent and analytical in order to facilitate a focused discussion and a productive outcome.

22. Reports should contain clear and action-oriented recommendations, which would enhance effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences.

23. The availability of reports through electronic format, though desirable, should not substitute for hard-copy reports which must be made available in a timely manner in all official United Nations languages, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/214 B of 22 December 1997.

24. In the preparatory process, the convening of workshops, seminars, round tables and panel of experts focusing on the priority themes may provide many useful ideas in the preparation of documentation and therefore should be given appropriate consideration. In this context, it is important that efforts should be made to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in such forums. Consultations with other relevant actors, including non-State actors, when possible and as appropriate, can be useful in the preparation of reports.

25. In the preparation of reports by the Secretariat for the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Council's subsidiary bodies, the Secretary-General should continue to make use, when appropriate, of the practice of designating task managers, so that a particular United Nations agency would be responsible for coordinating the response of the entire United Nations system on a given subject, including the formulation of recommendations for future action. All relevant bodies in the United Nations system should be involved in the preparatory process, as appropriate. Where necessary, task forces, reporting to an assigned manager, should be established to facilitate coordination of inputs.

26. An early exchange of views by/with the Secretariat and Member States on the preparation of reports can be helpful in strengthening their content. The Bureau should monitor timely preparation.

27. To allow more time for the Member States to interact with each other, the introduction of the reports by the Secretariat should be kept to the minimum length necessary and, whenever possible, a group of related documents should be introduced together.

28. Recommendations in the reports should focus on steps taken and measures required to enhance the full implementation of conference outcomes at the national and international levels, and clearly identify those actions that are required for a coordinated United Nations system-wide response. In preparing such reports, the Secretariat should draw on the experiences gained by Member States in their national implementation of follow-up to conferences, bearing in mind that the reporting on national implementation of conference outcomes is the responsibility of Governments. In this regard, support provided by the international community should also be included. The Secretariat should also draw on the experience gained by the United Nations system in assisting implementation at the field level, including through the resident coordinator system. Input from the resident coordinator system should be prepared in full consultation with the national Government.

29. The Secretariat is requested to present issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner when preparing reports so as to provide the intergovernmental machinery with an analytical basis for gender-responsive policy formulation and to ensure that the intergovernmental machinery is made aware of the decisions and recommendations of the relevant bodies in relation to gender mainstreaming.

30. Functional commissions, at the conclusion of each session, should consider and decide, upon recommendation of their Bureaux, whether their outputs might be relevant to the work of other functional commissions and, if so, request the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to arrange for this material to be brought to the attention of the other commissions in a timely manner. Functional commissions could also consider whether the reports of other functional commissions are relevant to their work and, if so, request the Bureau of the Council to arrange for this material to be made available to them.

E

Outcome/reporting

31. The format of the outcomes of the meetings will vary from one functional commission to another, but the outcome should be focused and concise, should contain concrete recommendations and actions, based on intergovernmental deliberations and negotiations, and should not be intended as a redefinition of the already agreed documents of the major conferences.

32. The Secretariat should produce a consolidated report for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council that looks at linkages between the functional commissions. This report should highlight the key points on which the Council needs to consider taking action.

33. The Economic and Social Council should, for its part, ensure that it reviews the above-mentioned recommendations, concentrating in particular on horizontal or cross-cutting issues, with a view in particular to ensuring consistency between recommendations presented by different functional commissions. Within the agreed outputs, the functional commissions should clearly identify any recommendations that have coordination, programmatic or budgetary implications for the United Nations.

34. The Member States should be given ample time to negotiate the outcome of the meetings.

35. While recognizing the right of any Member State to introduce draft resolutions or decisions that it deems necessary, functional commissions should be encouraged to utilize agreed outputs that serve to integrate the particular sectoral concerns that may arise within the overall framework of the follow-up to a global conference, as appropriate.

F

Relations with the Economic and Social Council

36. The Economic and Social Council should focus on improving the effectiveness of the functional commissions, including their role as instruments for conference follow-up, through better working methods and harmonization of their multi-year work programmes. The Council should monitor on a yearly basis the steps taken by functional commissions in response to Council recommendations on the harmonization of work programmes. The Council should also monitor annually the way in which its functional commissions

mainstream a gender perspective on the basis of the report on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

37. The Economic and Social Council should ensure that general discussion in the functional commissions on cross-cutting issues common to major United Nations conferences should be within their respective areas of competence and within their multi-year programmes of work in order to foster the discussion of such issues by the Council and the General Assembly.

38. The Economic and Social Council needs to be fully informed of the coordinating work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination so that it can ensure that the functional commissions are aware in a timely manner of the work of the Committee related to the follow-up to the major global conferences.

G

Interrelationship between functional commissions

39. As agreed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/61 of 25 July 1997, cooperation among functional commissions should be supported and enhanced by the Bureau of the Council with the assistance of the respective secretariats of the functional commissions.

H

Relations with the regional commissions and other relevant regional bodies

40. The regional commissions have been given specific mandates for the follow-up to the major global conferences, and they have an important role to play in this regard.

41. Bearing in mind the important role of the regional commissions and other regional bodies in implementing the outcome of the major global conferences, their contribution should be reflected in the work of the functional commissions.

Annex III

Regional commissions

1. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B, mandated a review by the Economic and Social Council of the regional commissions. The commissions, in response to Assembly resolution 50/227 and Council resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996, as well as on their own initiatives, have carried out reforms with differences in content and scope, in accordance with specificities of each region, aimed at achieving greater relevance, efficiency and effectiveness.

2. The Economic and Social Council welcomes the reform measures undertaken by the commissions and encourages them to continue to undertake, as appropriate, under the aegis of their respective intergovernmental bodies, further measures in this regard.

3. The Economic and Social Council recognizes that each regional commission operates in a different economic and institutional environment and that regional commissions should therefore continue to respond to regional needs as reflected in the priorities set by members of the respective commissions.

4. Bearing this in mind, as well as the role of the regional commissions within the United Nations system in their respective regions as mandated in section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, the following guidance is provided by the Economic and Social Council with respect to improving the commissions' contributions and relevance in the reform process of the United Nations, in accordance with the mandates and priorities of each of the commissions.

A

The regional commissions as regional outposts of the United Nations

5. According to regional needs and circumstances, the regional commissions fulfil norm-setting, dissemination and analytical functions as well as undertake operational activities that are complementary and mutually reinforcing. The regional commissions provide an important forum for articulating regional perspectives on global issues, and for building consensus within their respective regions. This capacity should be utilized more fully by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, as appropriate.

6. Linking the activities of the regional commissions more effectively with the overall activities of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors should be pursued vigorously. The active involvement and participation of the Executive Secretaries of the commissions, or their representatives, in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Group should be effectively ensured.

7. The undertaking of joint exercises in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities should be encouraged between each of the secretariats of the commissions, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretariat on the basis of memoranda/letters of understanding and should be reflected in their respective programmes of work.

8. An important role has been given to the regional commissions in the preparations for and follow-up to major United Nations conferences in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities. The Economic and Social Council should provide overall guidance for the work of the regional commissions in this area, bearing in mind the need for a multisectoral approach.

9. The Economic and Social Council welcomes the ongoing exercises in some of the regional commissions on priority-setting, and encourages the other regional commissions to carry out similar activities. The involvement of Governments in this process should help the commissions achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency.

10. Improving coordination of the activities of the regional commissions and various United Nations entities operating at the regional level, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, within their respective mandates and priorities, is particularly important. This should be further addressed through the following concrete measures:

(a) Reactivation of the United Nations Development Programme/regional commissions task force for the purpose of addressing, more effectively, issues of common concern;

(b) Closer consultation of the regional commissions by the United Nations Development Programme during the programming stages of its regional activities, with the Programme considering the commissions to be partners in the undertaking of those activities. The secretariats of the regional commissions should make available to the relevant offices of the Programme, in particular the regional bureaux, their respective programmes of work.

11. The potential for active involvement of the regional commissions in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should be reviewed in the ongoing pilot phase of the Framework.

B

The regional commissions as part of their respective regional institutional landscape

12. The role of the regional commissions as part of the institutional landscape of their respective regions calls for close cooperation between the commissions and other relevant regional bodies in order to reinforce synergies and complementarities between their respective programmes of work. The regional commissions are encouraged to intensify their cooperation and regular exchange of information, as determined by their respective intergovernmental bodies, with relevant regional bodies, institutions and networks. When holding meetings with their respective regional bodies and institutions, the regional commissions should ensure that such meetings concentrate on specific issues for which a regional coordinated approach is desirable and reflect the mandates and priorities of the regional commissions.

13. The team leadership role of the regional commissions calls for their holding regular inter-agency meetings in each region with a view to improving coordination among the work programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system in that region. In this respect, the Economic and Social Council welcomes the efforts by the Secretary-General to improve coordination within the United Nations system, including his proposal of yearly meetings, to be chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General in each geographical area, among the relevant entities of the United Nations system engaged in regional and intercountry activities. These meetings should be cost-effective and built up on already existing coordination mechanisms and should focus on specific issues requiring coordination at the regional level. The outcome of these meetings should be reported to the Council through the respective intergovernmental bodies of the regional commissions, as appropriate. In this regard, the Council encourages the Secretary-General to take into account these measures in his report under the agenda item on regional cooperation in 1999.

C

Role of the Economic and Social Council

14. The Economic and Social Council should encourage the regular exchange of information, as appropriate, between the bureaux of the regional commissions and its own Bureau. Whenever possible, the participation of the chairpersons of the regional commissions in the relevant deliberations of the Council should be welcomed. The Council should also encourage the participation of the Executive Secretaries, when feasible, in its high-level debates and should further encourage inputs from the regional commissions in its substantive consideration of global issues with a regional dimension, including through the utilization of the Regional Commissions New York Office. Regular briefings of the Council by the Executive Secretaries should be organized during the meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Group. The Council should also encourage better two-way flow of information on activities of the regional commissions, including through simultaneous launching of the economic and social surveys, in New York and at the seats of the regional commissions.

15. The Economic and Social Council should also encourage regular interaction between the regional commissions in order for them to share each other's best practices, experiences and concrete achievements. The Council should also encourage interregional cooperation involving two or more regional commissions, as well as the United Nations Development Programme, when appropriate.

16. The Economic and Social Council should promote greater cooperation between the regional commissions and its functional commissions through regular exchange of information supported by their respective secretariats, as appropriate.

17. The Economic and Social Council should maintain its oversight and coordination role to ensure that decisions taken by the intergovernmental bodies of the regional commissions and the United Nations funds and programmes are complementary and mutually supportive.

18. The Economic and Social Council should encourage the exchange of information and cooperation between the regional commissions and the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization on issues of common interest.

1998/47

Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields: modalities for elections

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into account its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 and annexes I to III thereto,

Bearing in mind that the Council will hold, at its resumed substantive session of 1998, elections for the composition of the bodies referred to in annex I of the resolution, so that these bodies are fully constituted from 1 January 1999,

1. *Decides* to terminate, as of 31 December 1998, the current membership of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development;

2. *Also decides* to hold new elections for the thirty-three members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in accordance with the pattern for regional distribution agreed upon and set forth in paragraph 6 of annex I to Council resolution 1998/46; and following the election of the new members, there will be a drawing of lots for all seats, whether vacant or not, to stagger the terms of office: sixteen members of the Commission will serve for a term of two years (four members from African States, three members from Asian States, three members from Latin American and Caribbean States, two members from Eastern European States, and four members from Western European and other States) and seventeen members will serve for a term of four years (four members from African States, four members from Asian States, three members from Latin American and Caribbean States, two members from Eastern European States, and four members from Western European and other States;

3. *Further decides* that, in accordance with previous practice, the terms of office of all the members of the Committee for Development Policy will be concurrent;

4. *Decides* that the election of members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development will be held every four years and the terms of office of all the members of the Committee will be concurrent.

47th plenary meeting
31 July 1998

1998/48

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/95 of 12 December 1997 on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Reiterating the importance of the autonomous status of the Institute, as set out in article I of its statute,[162]

Welcoming the recent appointment of the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Bearing in mind that the entire operation of the Institute depends solely on voluntary contributions,

Expressing deep concern over the serious financial situation of the Institute and noting the efforts undertaken to date by the Director to assuage that concern,

Welcoming the growing number of developing countries that contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Reiterating the content of paragraph 334 of the Beijing Platform for Action[155] and the relevant provisions contained in the agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council,[163] on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which emphasized the need for research and related training activities and the role of the Institute within the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its eighteenth session and the decisions contained therein;[164]

2. *Also takes note* of the programme budget of the Institute for the biennium 1998–1999, approved by the Board of Trustees at its eighteenth session;[165]

3. *Commends* the Institute for its efforts to coordinate its activities with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and other entities of the United Nations and through relevant inter-agency and Administrative Committee on Coordination subcommittees, and its efforts to develop joint activities and fund-raising with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, so as to promote programmes that contribute to the advancement of women;

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[162] A/39/511, annex.

[163] A/53/3, chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

[164] See E/1998/46.

[165] Ibid., sect. V.

4. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening independent research, training and compilation of related databases, which are crucial elements for mainstreaming a gender perspective into policy, planning and implementation;

5. *Requests* the Director, in cooperation with the Board of Trustees and all interested partners, taking into account the outcome of the Inter-Agency Brainstorming Workshop and the International Dialogue on Research Priorities, to draw up a strategic and comprehensive work plan, without delay, setting out a vision for the future, taking into account the comparative advantages of the Institute's mandate within the United Nations system;

6. *Requests* the Joint Inspection Unit, in accordance with its proposed work plan, to carry out an evaluation of the Institute which should include a detailed analysis of the reasons for the financial and staffing situation of the Institute and the implications thereof for the Institute at all levels, and the results of the activities mentioned in paragraph 5;

7. *Requests* the Director, in cooperation with the Board of Trustees, to present a report to the Economic and Social Council at its next substantive session, containing the following:

(a) A detailed analysis of the reasons for the financial and staffing situation of the Institute and the implications thereof for the Institute, at all levels, including an up-to-date balance sheet of its finances and reserves and of all the steps taken to strengthen its financial and staffing situation, in accordance with the relevant articles of the statute of the Institute, including financial administration as contained in the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, as well as the system support;

(b) Information on the progress of the preparation of a strategic and comprehensive work plan and on steps taken for its implementation;

(c) Information on the outcome of the planned Inter-Agency Brainstorming Workshop and the planned International Dialogue on Research Priorities;

8. *Calls upon* the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies in the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to coordinate fully with the Institute and to give support to it, particularly in the programming and implementation of joint activities;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide support to the Institute, particularly in fund-raising activities, by encouraging voluntary contributions to the Institute;

10. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women or to increase their contributions, taking into consideration the importance of those contributions in enabling the Institute to continue to respond effectively to its mandates.

47th plenary meeting
31 July 1998

Decisions

1998/202 C
Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Economic and Social Council

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took the following action with regard to vacancies in its subsidiary and related bodies:

Elections

Commission on sustainable development

The Council decided that **Sweden**, which had withdrawn from the Commission, would be replaced by **Finland** for a term beginning on 31 July 1998 and expiring at the conclusion of the Commission's seventh session, in 1999.

Elections postponed from previous sessions

Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

India was elected for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1999.

The Council postponed to a future session the election of two members from African States and one member from Asian States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1999.

1998/212
Adoption of the agenda of the substantive session of 1998 and other organizational matters

1. At its 12th plenary meeting, on 6 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council adopted the agenda of its substantive session of 1998[166] and approved the organization of work of the session.[167]

2. At its 19th, 28th and 32nd plenary meetings, on 9, 15 and 17 July 1998, the Council approved the requests made by non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Council at its substantive session of 1998.[168]

1998/213
Venue of the twenty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

At its 35th plenary meeting, on 20 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of resolution 575 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998 on the place and date of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, decided to endorse the decision of the Commission to accept the invitation of the Government of Mexico to hold the twenty-eighth session of the Commission in Mexico in the year 2000.

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[166] E/1998/100 and Add.1.

[167] E/1998/L.9.

[168] E/1998/82 and Add.1 and Add.2.

1998/214
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of regional cooperation

At its 35th plenary meeting, on 20 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the regional commissions in the context of a programme for reform of the United Nations;[169]

(b) Addendum 1 to the above, containing a review of the implementation of reform within the regional commissions;[170]

(c) Addendum 2 to the above, containing resolutions and decisions adopted at the recent sessions of the regional commissions calling for action by the Council or brought to its attention;[171]

(d) Addendum 3 to the above, containing a letter from the Chairman of the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific at its fifty-fourth session to the President of the Council at its substantive session of 1998;[172]

(e) Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 1997;[173]

(f) Summary of the survey of the economic and social situation in Africa, 1997;[174]

(g) Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1997;[175]

(h) Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1997;[176]

(i) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, 1997–1998.[177]

1998/215
Consumer protection guidelines for sustainable consumption

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 1997/53 of 23 July 1997 on consumer protection:

(a) Noted with appreciation the organization of the Interregional Expert Group Meeting on Consumer Protection and Sustainable Consumption, held at São Paulo, Brazil,[178] and the specific recommendations of that meeting on new guidelines, as requested in Council resolution 1997/53;

(b) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General;[179]

(c) Invited Governments to undertake national consultations, with appropriate stakeholder groups, including consumer organizations and representatives of business, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, on guidelines for sustainable consumption, and to submit their views on the proposed new guidelines to the Secretariat so that they can be made available to all Governments;

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[169] E/1998/65.

[170] E/1998/65/Add.1.

[171] E/1998/65/Add.2.

[172] E/1998/65/Add.3.

[173] E/1998/11.

[174] E/1998/12.

[175] E/1998/13.

[176] E/1998/14.

[177] E/1998/15.

[178] See E/CN.17/1998/5, annex.

[179] E/CN.17/1998/5.

(d) Invited the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development to organize, within existing resources, open-ended consultations among States, and to report thereon to the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group for its consideration, having regard to the report of the Secretary-General;[179]

(e) Requested the Commission to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 on guidelines for sustainable consumption.

1998/216

Matters relating to the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council approved the request of the Commission on Sustainable Development to hold the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests at Geneva from 3 to 14 May 1999.

1998/217

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixth session, and provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixth session, and approved the provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Sectoral theme: Oceans and seas.
4. Cross-sectoral theme: Consumption and production patterns, including recommendations for sustainable consumption for inclusion in the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/53.
5. Economic sector/major group: Tourism.
6. Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
7. Initiation of preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on issues related to the sectoral theme: Energy.
8. High-level meeting.
9. Other matters.
10. Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session.

1998/218

Dates of the ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided that the ninth meeting of the Group of Experts would take place in the first half of 1999, as envisaged in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, so that the report of the meeting might be submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1999.

1998/219

Dates of the fifteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Fifteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance would take place during the first quarter of the year 2000.

1998/220

Assessment of progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Secretary-General would conduct a five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225 on public administration and development, and would report his findings to the General Assembly through the Council in the year 2001.

1998/221

Seventh and eighth United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided to:

(a) Endorse the recommendation that the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened for eight working days in the second half of 2002;

(b) Also endorse the recommendation that the twentieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened during the fourth quarter of 1999;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to take measures, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations of the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, especially with regard to the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

1998/222

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-first session and provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-first session;

(b) Approved the provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development

A. Commission on population and development acting in regular session

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda of the regular session of the Commission on Population and Development and other organizational matters.
3. World population situation.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends
4. Follow-up to actions on the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development:
   (a) Population growth, structure and distribution;
   (b) Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development.

   Documentation

   Concise report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring: population growth, structure and distribution

   Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources in international assistance for population

   Report on the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development
5. Work of the Commission on Population and Development in the next quinquennium.
6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat
7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission.

   Documentation

   Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session, acting in regular session.

B. Commission on population and development acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly on review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda of the Commission on Population and Development acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly and other organizational matters.

3. Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

   Report of the international forum on the operational review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

   Draft report of the Secretary-General for the special session of the General Assembly on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session, acting as preparatory body.

1998/223

Organizational meeting in 1998 of the Commission on Sustainable Development

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Authorized the Commission on Sustainable Development to convene an organizational meeting in 1998 for the sole purpose of holding elections to fill the two remaining posts of Vice-Chairmen of the Bureau of its seventh session, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council. The terms of office of the two Vice-Chairmen would begin immediately upon election and would end at the conclusion of the seventh session of the Commission, in 1999;

(b) Decided that in that context the provisions of subparagraph (d) of its decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993 did not apply.

1998/224

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-second session, and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 28 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-second session, and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

(a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the differential impact of population ageing on men and women, as a contribution to the International Year of Older Persons

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

Documentation

Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues before the Commission in accordance with the multi-year work programme, including, as far as possible, progress made in national implementation, based on available existing data and statistics

4. Initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action and preparation for the high-level plenary review in the year 2000.
5. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Lists of confidential and non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

6. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Commission.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-third session.

1998/225

Activities of the Consultative Group for the International Year of Older Persons

At its forty-fourth plenary meeting, on 28 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) That the ad hoc informal open-ended support group to assist the Commission for Social Development in preparations for the International Year of Older Persons, in addition to its current activities of promoting awareness and exchange of information on the preparations for the International Year between States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, would serve as an informal consultative forum for discussing national and international proposals and initiatives to help lay the groundwork for the discussion of the item on the International Year at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission;

(b) To change the name of the support group to Consultative Group for the International Year of Older Persons, keeping the informal and open-ended nature of the Group.

1998/226

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-sixth session, and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 28 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-sixth session, and endorsed the decisions adopted by the Commission;

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development:

The Commission will review progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and at each of its sessions will consider issues relating to the enabling environment for social development, the special situation of Africa and the least developed countries, enhancement of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes, the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development, and the framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development.

(a) Priority themes:
  (i) Social services for all;
  (ii) Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

In accordance with earlier decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission, the Commission will consider, under item 3 (b) of the agenda of its thirty-seventh session, issues pertaining to ageing, in particular the International Year of Older Persons (1999).

The Commission will also have before it the outcome of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on social services for all

Report of the Secretary-General on the initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of expert workshop(s)

Note by the Secretary-General regarding the International Year of Older Persons and follow-up arrangements

4. Programme questions and other matters:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation;

   (b) Proposed programme of work of the Secretariat for the biennium 2000-2001;

   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

   Documentation

   Note by the Secretary-General on the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

   Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

   Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

5. Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session.

1998/227
Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 28 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council,

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session;

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

1. Election of officers.

   (Legislative authority: rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and Commission decision 1/101)

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

   Documentation

   Annotated provisional agenda

   (Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/1; and rules 5 and 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council)

3. Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention:

(a) Criminal justice reform and strengthening of legal institutions: the development, analysis and policy use of crime and criminal justice information, and the computerization of criminal justice operations;

(b) Technical cooperation;

(c) Cooperation with other United Nations entities and other bodies;

(d) Resource mobilization.

Documentation

Report on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

(Legislative authority: Council resolutions 1992/22, 1996/11, 1997/27 and 1997/35; and Commission resolution E/CN.15/1998/L.8/Rev.1)

Report on the work of the institutes comprising the United Nations network of institutes on crime prevention and criminal justice

(Legislative authority: Council resolution 1992/22)

4. Strategies for crime prevention:

(a) Promotion and maintenance of the rule of law and good governance: crime and public security;

(b) Elimination of violence against women;

(c) Development of crime prevention standards.

Documentation

Report on crime prevention

(Legislative authority: Council resolutions 1996/12, para. 17, 1997/24, para. 16, 1997/33, paras. 2, 3 and 4, and 1997/34, paras. 5 and 8)

5. Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

Documentation

Report on progress made in the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, including reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 52/91; and Commission resolution E/CN.15/1998/L.11/Rev.1, para. 19)

6. International cooperation in combating transnational crime:

(a) Implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime;

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 52/85, paras. 6 and 9)

(b) Elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime and other possible international instruments.

Documentation

Report on the work of the ad hoc committee on the elaboration of the international convention against transnational organized crime and other possible instruments

(Legislative authority: Commission resolution E/CN.15/1998/L.9/Rev.1, para. 17)

7. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Documentation

Report on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

(Legislative authority: Council resolutions 1997/30, para. 10, 1997/31, para. 16, and 1997/32; and Commission resolution E/CN.15/1998/L.10/Rev.1, sect. II, para. 10, and sect. III, paras. 10 and 11)

8. Strategic management and programme questions:

   (a) Strategic management;

   (b) Programme questions;

   (c) Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

Documentation

Report on strategic management

(Legislative authority: Commission resolution E/CN.15/1998/L.14/Rev.1)

Note on the nomination of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

9. Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Commission.

10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighth session.

1998/228

Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 28 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided to endorse the appointment, by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session, of Setsuo Miyazawa and Alejandro Reyes Posada to the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

1998/229

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 28 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs set out below, on the understanding that following the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, informal inter-sessional meetings would be convened at Vienna, at no additional cost, to finalize the items to be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session and to review the issue of the duration of the regular session of the Commission.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Annotated provisional agenda

3. General debate and policy directives.

   Documentation

   Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

4. Reduction of illicit demand for drugs.

   (Special topic: Youth and drugs)

   (Review of national studies on the social and economic costs of drug abuse)

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse

   (Special report or reports requested by the Commission)

5. Illicit drug traffic and supply, including reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

   Documentation

   World situation with regard to illicit drug trafficking: report of the Secretariat

   Action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs: report of the Secretariat

6. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

   (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

   Documentation

   Report of the Executive Director, as necessary

   (b) International Narcotics Control Board;

   Documentation

   Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998

   Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998 on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

   (c) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.

   Documentation

   Note by the Secretariat, as necessary

7. Implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session

8. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and implementation of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on international drug control.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on international drug control

9. Administrative and budgetary matters.

Documentation

Note by the Executive Director, as necessary

1998/230

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 28 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997.

1998/231

Enlargement of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, while not opposed to the enlargement of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, and recalling its resolution 1997/57 of 23 July 1997, decided not to pursue consideration of this question until the year 2000, given that the Committee was in a period of transition following the adoption of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, that it was in the process of reviewing its methods of work and that the Secretariat was working under resource constraints.

1998/232

Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To grant the following three non-governmental organizations general consultative status:

Africa Muslims Agency
Asian Legal Resource Centre
Centre de recherches et de promotion pour la sauvegarde des sites et monuments historiques en Afrique

(b) To reclassify six organizations from special to general consultative status, two organizations from the Roster to general consultative status and three organizations from the Roster to special consultative status, as follows:

General consultative status

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
Europe-Third World Centre
Greenpeace International
International Association of Lions Clubs
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies
Parliamentarians for Global Action
World Organization of the Scout Movement

Special consultative status

Catholic International Education Office
Dayemi Complex Bangladesh[180]
International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions

1998/233

Applications from organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for participation in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided to approve the participation of the following eight organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Council in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group whose establishment was authorized by the Council in its resolution 1995/32 of 25 October 1995:

Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East
Fédération des organisations amérindiennes de Guyane
Foundation of Aboriginal and Islander Research Action
Indigenous Initiative for Peace
Indigenous Women's Nexus
Navajo Working Group for Human Rights
Te Iwi Moriori Trust Board
Western Shoshone National Council

1998/234

Expansion of the participation of non-governmental organizations on the Roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its decision 1996/302 of 26 July 1996, decided to approve the request of the following 11 non-governmental organizations that are on the Roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development to expand their participation in other fields of the Council:

Asociaçao Pernambucana de Defensa de Natureza (ASPAN)
Deutscher Naturschützring (DNR)
Institute for Planetary Synthesis
Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)

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[180] Formerly called Dayemi Complex, Dhaka

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
International Wood Products Association (IHPA)
People-Centered Development Forum
Sustainable Agriculture and Self-Help (SASH)
United Church of Christ – Board for World Ministries
World Business Council for Sustainable Development
World Economy, Ecology and Development Association

1998/235

Additional applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To grant the following non-governmental organizations consultative status:

General consultative status

African-American Islamic Institute
Al-Khoei Foundation
International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW)
Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas Y del Caribe

Special consultative status

8th Day Centre for Justice
Action for Integrated Rural and Tribal Development Social Service Society (AIRTDS)
Advisory Commission of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD)
African Services Committee, Inc.
Agencia Latinoamericana de Información (ALAI)
Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme
Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK)
All-Russian Society of Disabled People
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
ANPED-Northern Alliance for Sustainability
Arab Women's Forum (AISHA)
Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners, Inc.
Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência (AMCV)
Association Algerienne de solidarité aux malades respiratoires
Association des états géneraux des étudiants de l'Europe (AEGEE)
Association des études internationales
Association des femmes éducatrices du Mali (AFEM)
Association européenne contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail (AVFT)
Association for Assistance to Families with Disabled Children
Association internationale des mouvements familiaux de formation rurale (AIMFR)
Association of Interbalkan Women's Cooperation Societies
Association of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa, New Zealand
Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Small Scale Industries
Association pour la promotion de l'emploi et du logement (APEL)
Association pour le progrès et la défense des droits des femmes maliennes (APDF)
Association to Aid Refugees, Japan (AAR, Japan)

Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre
Bundesarbeitgemeinshcaft der senioren-organisationen (BAGSO)
Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Inc.
BUSCO-Business Association for the World Social Summit
Canadian Federation of University Women
Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women
Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC)
Centre for Psychology and Social Change
Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine
Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)
Centre of People's Help "Blagovest" – International Public Charitable Organization (CHP "Blagovest")
Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio 74 (CERFE)
Children Australia
China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF)
China Society for Human Rights (CSHRS)
Chinese Immigrants Services, Inc.
Chinese Women's Association of America/Chinese Women's Association America Foundation
Christian Aid
Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlement (CREUMHS)
Collectif sénégalais des africaines pour la promotion de l'education relative à l'environnement (COSAPERE)
Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement (CCFD)
Comité national d'action pour les droits de l'enfant et de la femme (CADEF)
Couple to Couple League International, Inc.
Croatian World Congress
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe
Eagle Forum
EcoPeace-Middle East Environment NGO Forum
Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer (FEFAF)
Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia
Femmes actives au foyer
Flora Tristan, Peruvian Women's Centre
Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)
The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute
Fundació EcoMediterrània
General Confederation of Trade Unions
Global Alliance for Women's Health
The Grail
Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)
Grassroots Organization Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS)
Group for International Solidarity (GRINSO)
Il Cenacolo
INCORVUZ Corporation
Institute of Global Education
Institute of Inter-Balkan Relations
Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development
Interfaith International
International Association for Feminist Economics

International Club for Peace Research (ICPR)
International Council of Chemical Associations
International First Aid Society
International Geothermal Association
International Health Awareness Network
International Investment Centre
International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)
International Psychoanalytical Association Trust
International Research Foundation for Development
International Union of Psychological Science (IUPSYS)
International Wages for Housework Campaign
International Women Count Network
International Women's Democracy Centre
International Women's Writing Guild
International Women's Year Liaison Group
International Youth Foundation
IPAS
Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)
Japanese Association of International Women's Rights (JAIWR)
JMJ Children's Fund of Canada, Inc.
Kongres Wanita Indonesia (KOWANI)
Korean Federation for Environmental Movement
Korean National Council of Women
Ladies Charitable Society
MAMTA-Health Institute for Mother and Child
Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
Mauritius Family Planning Association
Mennonite Central Committee
Mercy Corps International
Miramed Institute
Movimento Italiano Casalinghe (MOICA)
National Association for Resource Improvement (NARI)
National Coordinator for Human Rights
National Federation of International Immigrant Women Associations (RIFFI)
National Federation of Women for Democracy
National Women's Union of Romania
New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
Organization for Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America (OSPAAL)
Organisation tunisienne des jeunes médicins sans frontières
Paukuutit Inuit Women's Association of Canada
People's Decade of Human Rights Education (PDHRE)
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Program for Research and Documentation for Sustainable Development (PROSUS)
Programme national de prevention, de lutte et d'assistance humanitaire aux victimes des catastrophes naturelles (PRONAPLUCAN)
Rainforest Foundation International

Real Women of Canada
Sto. Nino Organic Farmers, Inc.
Saviya Development Foundation
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
"Social Ecology" Foundation
Soroptomist Union of Greece
Teresian Association
Tiye International
Unión de Escritores Y Artistas de Cuba
Union nationale de la femme tunisienne
Unione Intercontinentale Casalinghe (UNICA)
WINVISIBLE-Women with Visible and Invisible Disability
Womankind Worldwide
Women Against Rape
Women and Child Development Association
Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)
Women's Crisis Centre, The
Women's Forum Scotland
Women's Intercultural Network
World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)

Roster

Armenian International Women's Association
Armenian Relief Society
International Buddhist Foundation (IBF)
International Wages Due Lesbians
Liga Para Sa Mga Lolang Pilipina (LILA Pilipina)
Netherlands Council of Women
Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA)

(b) To reclassify four organizations from Roster to special consultative status:

International Council of Psychologists
International Young Catholic Students
Universal Esperanto Association
World Organization Against Torture

1998/236
Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided to grant Roster status to the following eight non-governmental organizations:

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
FORJA
Foundation for Global Community
Free Youth Association of Bucharest
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Rainforest Alliance
Scientific and Cultural Society of Pakistan
Shirkat Gah

1998/237

Resumed 1998 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold a resumed session for a period of one week in order to complete the work of its 1998 session.

1998/238

Documents considered in connection with the question of non-governmental organizations

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 1997 session;[181]

(b) Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the first part of its 1998 session;[182]

(c) Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the second part of its 1998 session;[183]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat.[184]

1998/239

Note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.[185]

1998/240

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

At its forty-sixth plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-first session.

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[181] E/1998/8.

[182] E/1998/72.

[183] E/1998/72/Add.1.

[184] E/1998/43 and Corr..

[185] A/53/163-E/1998/79.

1998/241

The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/6 of 27 March 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and to request the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, to seek and receive credible and reliable information from Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of mercenary activities on the right of peoples to self-determination, and when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States affected by the activities of mercenaries.

1998/242

Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/12 of 9 April 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to renew for a period of three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights in order that she might continue to undertake, in consultation with the relevant United Nations bodies and organizations and the secretariats of relevant international conventions, a global, multidisciplinary and comprehensive study of existing problems of and solutions to illicit traffic in and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, in particular in developing countries, with a view to making concrete recommendations and proposals on adequate measures to control, reduce and eradicate those phenomena;

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to make all necessary resources available to the Special Rapporteur to enable her to carry out her mandate successfully, in particular to provide her with adequate financial and human resources, including administrative support.

1998/243

Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/13 of 9 April 1998:[186]

(a) Authorized the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to meet for five working days prior to the fiftieth session of the Subcommission, and approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide adequate resources and assistance to the Working Group in the discharge of its tasks, including adequate dissemination of information about the activities of the Working Group to Governments, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and organizations of indigenous people, in order to encourage the widest possible participation in its work;

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[186] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking into account the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the priority to be given to education and language at the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and recognizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems, to consider organizing a workshop for research and higher education institutions focusing on indigenous issues in education in order to improve exchange of information between such institutions and encourage future cooperation, in consultation with indigenous people and in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies.

1998/244

Migrants and human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/16 of 9 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to reconvene the working group of intergovernmental experts on the human rights of migrants, on the same basis, in order that it might fulfil its mandate as set out in paragraph 3 of Commission resolution 1997/15 of 3 April 1997, to meet for two periods of five working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

1998/245

Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/18 of 9 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that were incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and to recommend remedial measures, as appropriate.

1998/246

Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/19 of 9 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities with a view to its holding one session of five working days annually.

1998/247
A permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/20 of 9 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to establish an open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group, from within existing overall United Nations resources, to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system, and approved the Commission's request that the ad hoc working group meet for five working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

1998/248
The right to food

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/23 of 17 April 1998,[186] approved the Commission's decision to endorse the proposal made by the Consultation on the Right to Adequate Food to have a follow-up meeting in 1998 to pursue the discussions on the content and means of implementation of the rights related to adequate food in order to provide the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a full set of recommendations concerning her response to the request of the World Food Summit contained in objective 7.4 (e) of the Plan of Action of the Summit, and in that regard to invite the High Commissioner to promote and encourage broader participation by experts from Member States, relevant specialized agencies and programmes, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

1998/249
Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/24 of 17 April 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision, in particular in the light of recent trends, to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on the effects of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and approved the Commission's request to the Special Rapporteur to present to the Commission, on an annual basis, beginning at its fifty-fifth session, an analytical report on the implementation of Commission resolution 1998/24;

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources required to perform his or her functions.

1998/250
Human rights and extreme poverty

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/25 of 17 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to appoint, for a period of two years, an independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to:

(a) Evaluate the relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and extreme poverty, including through the evaluation of measures taken at the national and international levels to promote the full enjoyment of human rights by persons living in extreme poverty;

(b) Take into account in particular the obstacles encountered and progress made by women living in extreme poverty as regards the enjoyment of their fundamental rights;

(c) Make recommendations and, as appropriate, proposals in the sphere of technical assistance;

(d) Report on these activities to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions, and make those reports available to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, for their sessions during the same years;

(e) Contribute to the General Assembly's evaluation in 2000 of the World Summit for Social Development by making his or her final report and conclusions available to the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to that evaluation;

(f) Make suggestions to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session on the main points of a possible draft declaration on human rights and extreme poverty so that the Commission can consider the possibility of initiating, at the fifty-first session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the drafting by that body of a text for examination by the Commission and possible adoption by the General Assembly, taking into account in that regard, *inter alia*, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Agenda for Development and the final report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Leandro Despouy.[187]

1998/251
Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/26 of 17 April 1998;[186]

(a) Approved the Commission's requests:

(i) To the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, a detailed report on the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to the General Assembly to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

(ii) To the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take duly into account the repeated appeals of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the establishment of a mechanism within the Office of the High Commissioner as a focal point for coordinating all the activities of the Third Decade before they are carried out by the United Nations;

(b) Endorsed the Commission's decision to create an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet during the fifty-fifth session in order to review and formulate proposals for consideration by the Commission and possible forwarding to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at its first session;

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[187] See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13.

(c) Also endorsed the Commission's recommendations to the General Assembly:

(i) To request the Secretary-General to designate as Secretary-General of the World Conference the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who, in that capacity, would assume the main responsibility for the preparations for the Conference;

(ii) To declare 2001 a year of mobilization against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance with the aim of drawing the world's attention to the objectives of the World Conference and giving new momentum to the political commitment;

(d) Also approved the Commission's recommendations:

(i) That the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination be focused towards the preparatory process for the World Conference, and in that regard that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize symposia, seminars and worldwide consultations in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(ii) That the World Conference result in a declaration and a programme of action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(e) Further approved the Commission's requests:

(i) To the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to help States and regional organizations to convene national and regional meetings or undertake other initiatives, including at the expert level, to prepare for the World Conference, and to the regional preparatory meetings to present to the Preparatory Committee, through the High Commissioner, reports on the results of their deliberations, with concrete and pragmatic recommendations aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which will be duly reflected in the draft final documents to be prepared by the Preparatory Committee.

(ii) To the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to inform the Preparatory Committee of the steps taken to prepare the World Conference.

1998/252

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/27 of 17 April 1998,[186]

(a) Approved the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General:

(i) To provide adequate resources in respect of each human rights treaty body;

(ii) To make the most efficient use of existing resources in order to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information;

(iii) To seek in the next biennium the resources within the United Nations regular budget necessary to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information;

(iv) To report to the Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-sixth session, on measures taken to implement Commission resolution 1998/27 and obstacles to its implementation, and on measures taken or planned to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the effective operation of the human rights treaty bodies;

(b) Also approved the Commission's request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take the necessary measures to ensure that the revised Manual on Human Rights Reporting be translated into all the official United Nations languages at the latest by 31 December 2000.

1998/253

Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems that the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/33 of 17 April 1998:[186]

(a) Authorized the Commission, as part of its efforts to impart a higher visibility to economic, social and cultural rights, to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur whose mandate would focus on the right to education as laid down in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and will comprise the tasks enumerated in paragraph 6 (a) (i) to (viii) of Commission resolution 1998/33;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the assistance necessary for the execution of his mandate.

1998/254

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/38 of 17 April 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture;

(b) Approved the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General to continue to include the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds were pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, and to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of an adequate and stable level of staffing, as well as the necessary technical facilities for the United Nations bodies and mechanisms dealing with torture, in order to ensure their effective performance.

1998/255

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/40 of 17 April 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to renew for a period of three years the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, comprising five independent experts;

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Working Group received all the assistance and resources, especially a database on cases of enforced disappearance, that it required to perform its function, carry out and follow up missions, hold sessions in countries that would be prepared to receive it and update the database.

1998/256

The right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/43 of 17 April 1998,[186] approved the Commission's request to the Chairman of the Commission to appoint an expert to prepare a revised version of the basic principles and guidelines elaborated by the former Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Theo van Boven, taking into account the views and comments provided by States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to submit the revised version to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session with a view to its adoption by the General Assembly.

1998/257

Internally displaced persons

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/50 of 17 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons for a further three years.

1998/258

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/55 of 17 April 1998,[186] approved the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide, from within existing resources, the necessary assistance for holding meetings of the Coordinating Committee created by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights during the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, under the auspices of and in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(b) To continue to provide, from within existing resources and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the necessary assistance for regional meetings of national institutions.

1998/259

Situation of human rights in Cambodia

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/60 of 17 April 1998,[186] approved the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General:

(a) Through his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, in collaboration with the office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to assist the Government of Cambodia in ensuring the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia, and to ensure adequate resources for the enhanced functioning of the operational presence in Cambodia of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and to enable the Special Representative to continue to fulfil his tasks expeditiously;

(b) To examine the request by the Cambodian authorities for assistance in responding to past serious violations of Cambodian and international law, including the possibility of the appointment, by the Secretary-General, of a group of experts to evaluate the existing evidence and propose further measures, as a means of bringing about national reconciliation, strengthening democracy and addressing the issue of individual accountability.

1998/260

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/61 of 21 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a further year, to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session on human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on the possibilities for the international community to assist with local capacity-building, and to request the Special Rapporteur to continue to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information.

1998/261

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/63 of 21 April 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, as contained in Commission resolution 1992/58 of 3 March 1992,[188] for a further year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information;

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to discharge his mandate fully, and to pursue all efforts to ensure that the Special Rapporteur be authorized to visit Myanmar.

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[188] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

1998/262

Situation of human rights in Nigeria

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/64 of 21 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision:

(a) To extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Nigeria, as contained in Commission resolution 1997/53 of 15 April 1997,[189] for a further year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to discharge his mandate fully.

1998/263

Situation of human rights in Iraq

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/65 of 21 April 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq, as contained in Commission resolution 1991/74 of 6 March 1991[190] and subsequent resolutions, for a further year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to discharge his mandate fully, and to approve the allocation of sufficient human and material resources for the sending of human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flow and assessment and help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq.

1998/264

Situation of human rights in the Sudan

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/67 of 21 April 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan for an additional year, and approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to give the Special Rapporteur all necessary assistance, from within existing resources, in the discharge of his mandate;

(b) Approved the Commission's requests to the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission on the future need for human rights field officers, with the understanding that the Commission will, at its fifty-fifth session, reassess such need, and to report his findings and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

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[189] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[190] Ibid., *1991, Supplement No. 2* (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

1998/265

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/68 of 21 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for three years, and approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with an adequate and stable level of human, financial and material resources in order to enable him to continue to carry out his mandate effectively, including through country visits.

1998/266

Situation of human rights in Rwanda

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/69 of 21 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to extend for a further year the mandate of the Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Rwanda to make recommendations on how to improve the human rights situation in Rwanda, to facilitate the creation and effective functioning of an independent national human rights commission in Rwanda, and further to make recommendations on situations in which technical assistance to the Government of Rwanda in the field of human rights might be appropriate, and approved the Commission's request to the Special Representative to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, in accordance with his mandate, as well as its request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Representative with such financial assistance as he might require to discharge his mandate.

1998/267

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/70 of 21 April 1998:[186]

(a) Approved the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure a human rights presence in the context of the United Nations activities in Afghanistan in order to provide advice and training in the field of human rights to all the Afghan parties, as well as to the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field;

(b) Endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

1998/268

Situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea and assistance in the field of human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/71 of 21 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea for one year, and approved the Commission's requests to the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session a report stressing, in particular, recommendations on technical assistance needs of Equatorial Guinea in the fields of human rights and democracy, and to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance for the discharge of his mandate.

1998/269
The right to development

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's recommendation, in view of the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development,[191] to establish a follow-up mechanism, initially for a period of three years, consisting of:

(a) The establishment of an open-ended working group to meet for a period of five working days each year, after the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, with a mandate:

> (i) To monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, at the national and international levels, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration;
>
> (ii) To review reports and any other information submitted by States, United Nations agencies, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the relationship between their activities and the right to development;
>
> (iii) To present for the consideration of the Commission on Human Rights a sessional report on its deliberations, including advice to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to the implementation of the right to development, and suggesting possible programmes of technical assistance at the request of interested countries with the aim of promoting the implementation of the right to development;

(b) The appointment by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of an independent expert with high competence in the field of the right to development, with a mandate to present to the working group at each of its sessions a study on the current state of progress in the implementation of the right to development as a basis for a focused discussion, taking into account, *inter alia*, the deliberations and suggestions of the working group.

1998/270
Human rights and thematic procedures

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/74 of 22 April 1998,[186] approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General, in implementing the United Nations budget for the current biennium, to ensure the availability of the resources necessary for the effective implementation of all human rights thematic mandates, including any additional tasks entrusted to the thematic special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups by the appropriate United Nations organs.

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[191] General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

1998/271
Rights of the child

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/76 of 22 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decisions:

(a) With regard to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to request the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities from the United Nations regular budget for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee, while noting the temporary support given by the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, based on voluntary contributions, which provide human resources to assist the Committee with the increasing workload due to the near universalization of the Convention, and to request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to brief Governments regularly on the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(b) With regard to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further three years, to request the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance, and to urge all relevant parts of the United Nations system to provide the Special Rapporteur with comprehensive reporting to make the full discharge of her mandate possible and to enable her to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) With regard to the question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to request the working group on the question of a draft optional protocol to meet for a period of two weeks prior to the next session of the Commission on Human Rights and to redouble its efforts with the aim of finalizing the draft optional protocol by the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to that end to encourage the Chairman of the working group to conduct broad informal consultations;

(d) With regard to the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, to encourage the Chairman of the working group on the draft optional protocol to conduct broad informal consultations with the aim of promoting an early agreement on the optional protocol and to produce a report thereon by the end of 1998, including if possible recommendations and/or ideas on the best way for the formal negotiations to proceed; to request the working group to meet in early 1999, primarily to consider the Chairman's report on the status of the informal consultations, which should be available well in advance, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session; to request the Secretary-General to give the necessary support to the working group to meet for a maximum of two weeks, if the working group decides that an agreement on the draft optional protocol is possible at that session; and to reaffirm the aim of finalizing the draft optional protocol by the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(e) With regard to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children, to recommend that the Secretary-General ensure that the necessary support be made available to the Special Representative for the effective performance of his mandate, to encourage the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide support to the Special Representative, and to call upon other institutions and States to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose.

1998/272

Situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/79 of 22 April 1998:[186]

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year, and welcomed the appointment of a new Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the new Special Rapporteur, in addition to the activities mandated in Commission resolutions 1994/72 of 9 March 1994,[192] 1996/71 of 23 April 1996[193] and 1997/57 of 15 April 1997:[194]

(i) To work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the United Nations in dealing with the question of missing persons, including by participation in the International Commission on Missing Persons advisory group and other groups involved in missing persons issues, such as those chaired by the Office of the High Representative and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to include in his report to the Commission on Human Rights information about activities concerning missing persons in the former Yugoslavia;

(ii) To pay particular attention to the situation of persons belonging to ethnic minorities, displaced persons, refugees and returnees who fall within his mandate;

(iii) To address human rights issues that transcend the borders between the States covered by his mandate and that could be addressed only through concerted action in more than one country;

(c) Also approved the Commission's requests that the Special Rapporteur carry out missions to:

(i) Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(ii) The Republic of Croatia, including Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium;

(iii) The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including to Kosovo, as well as to Sandjak and Vojvodina;

(d) Also endorsed the Commission's decisions:

(i) To request the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission, at its fifty-fifth session, on the work carried out in fulfilment of his mandate, and to present interim reports to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

(ii) To request the Secretary-General to continue to make the Special Rapporteur's reports available to the Security Council and to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

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[192] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4* (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

[193] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[194] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

(iii) To urge the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to make all necessary resources available for the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate successfully, in particular to provide him with adequate staff based in the countries of the mandate to ensure effective continuous monitoring of the human rights situation in those countries and coordination with other international organizations involved.

1998/273

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/80 of 22 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as contained in Commission resolution 1984/54 of 14 March 1984,[195] for a further year, to request the Special Representative to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information, and to request the Secretary-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Representative to enable him to discharge his mandate fully.

1998/274

Situation of human rights in Burundi

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/82 of 24 April 1998,[186] endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi for one year, and to request him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and a report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and to give his work a gender-specific dimension.

1998/275

Question of resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights activities of the United Nations

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/83 of 24 April 1998,[186] approved the Commission's appeal to the Council, the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take all necessary steps, without delay, to secure for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant components of the Organization regular budget resources for the current and future bienniums that would be sufficient to permit the effective fulfilment of the responsibilities and mandates established by Member States and commensurate with the importance assigned by the Charter of the United Nations to the promotion and protection of human rights.

1998/276

Effects of structural adjustment policies on the full enjoyment of human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/102 of 9 April 1998:[186]

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[195] Ibid., *1984, Supplement No. 4* (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to authorize the open-ended working group on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights to meet for one week, at least four weeks before the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, to consider the report of the independent expert and the comments received thereon, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) Decided, in order that the working group might carry out its mandate:

(i) To request the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the independent expert to Governments, United Nations bodies (in particular the regional commissions), the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (particularly those involved in development), and academic institutions and organizations representing disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and to invite them to submit their comments thereon to the working group at its next session;

(ii) To request the Secretary-General to invite and encourage non-governmental organizations involved in development and working in the field to participate actively in the sessions of the working group;

(iii) To request the Secretary-General to provide all the necessary assistance and resources to enable the working group to complete its task and provide the independent expert with all the necessary assistance and resources to carry out his mandate.

1998/277
Protection of the heritage of indigenous people

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/103 of 9 April 1998[186] and resolution 1997/13 of 22 August 1997[194] of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, approved the Commission's decision to endorse the recommendation of the Subcommission that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a seminar on the draft principles and guidelines for the protection of the heritage of indigenous people[196] and the participation of the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Erica-Irene A. Daes, representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, specialized agencies and organizations of indigenous people, and competent indigenous persons.

1998/278
Human rights and terrorism

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/107 of 17 April 1998[186] and resolution 1997/39 of 28 August 1997[186 194] of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities:

(a) Endorsed the Commission's decision to approve the appointment of Ms. Kalliopi K. Koufa as Special Rapporteur to conduct a comprehensive study on terrorism and human rights on the basis of her working paper,[197] and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit a preliminary report to the Subcommission at its fiftieth session, a progress report at its fifty-first session and a final report at its fifty-second session;

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[196] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/31, annex.

[197] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/28.

(b) Approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the assistance necessary to enable her to accomplish her task.

1998/279

Question of human rights and states of emergency

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/108 of 21 April 1998[186] and resolution 1997/27 of 28 August 1997[194] of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, endorsed the Commission's decision to request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Subcommission at its fifty-first session, and every second year thereafter, a list of States in which a state of emergency was proclaimed or was continued during the reporting period.

1998/280

Dates of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/110 of 22 April 1998,[186] approved the Commission's recommendation, bearing in mind Council decisions 1994/297 of 29 July 1994 and 1995/296 of 25 July 1995, that the fifty-fifth session of the Commission be scheduled to take place from 15 March to 23 April 1999.

1998/281

Organization of the work of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/111 of 22 April 1998,[186] authorized, if possible within existing financial resources, 30 fully serviced additional meetings, including summary records, in accordance with rules 29 and 31 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, for the Commission's fifty-fifth session. The Council approved the Commission's request to the Chairman of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session to make every effort to organize the work of the session within the times normally allotted so that the additional meetings authorized by the Council would be utilized only if they proved to be absolutely necessary.

1998/282

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people.[198]

1998/283

Report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa;[199]

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[198] A/53/153-E/1998/75.

[199] A/52/871-S/1998/318; see also E/1998/88.

(b) Commended the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and in-depth review of development challenges in Africa;

(c) Took note of the recommendations contained in the report;

(d) Decided, subsequent to the consideration of the report by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, to undertake substantive discussions on the implementation of the relevant recommendations at its substantive session of 1999, taking into account views expressed by Governments during the discussion of the report of the Secretary-General at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

1998/284

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the revised guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries.[200]

1998/285

Issue of the review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To continue consideration of the issue of the review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme with a view to arriving at a recommendation to the General Assembly during a resumed substantive session of the Council but no later than by the beginning of the substantive work of the Second Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

(b) To postpone action on the draft resolution entitled "Input to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/8"[201] to a resumed substantive session of the Council in September or October 1998.

1998/286

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

At its 47th plenary meeting on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session of 1998;[202]

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[200] E/1997/110.

[201] E/1998/L.17.

[202] DP/1998/12 and Corr.1 and 2).

(b) Decisions taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund at its first regular session of 1998;[203]

(c) Decisions taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund at its annual session of 1998;[204]

(d) Decisions taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund at its annual session of 1998;[205]

(e) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session of 1998;[206]

(f) Annual reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to the Council;[207]

(g) Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund at its 1998 annual session;[208]

(h) Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund to the Council;[209]

(i) Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme;[210]

(j) Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme to the Council;[211]

(k) Note by the Secretariat on the resource mobilization strategy for the United Nations Children's Fund;[212]

1998/287

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.[213]

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[203] DP/1998/13.

[204] DP/1998/16 and Corr.1.

[205] DP/1998/28.

[206] E/1998/35 (Part I).

[207] E/1998/45.

[208] E/1998/L.11.

[209] E/1998/16.

[210] E/1998/37, Supplement No. 17.

[211] E/1998/62.

[212] E/1998/70.

[213] E/1998/60.

1998/288

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council on freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation;[214]

(b) Statement of commitment of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for action to eradicate poverty.[215]

1998/289

Reports of coordination bodies considered by the Economic and Social Council

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following reports:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the first part of its thirty-eighth session;[216]

(b) Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1997.[217]

1998/290

Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Reaffirmed that General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, the Agenda for Development[218] and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as agreed conclusions 1995/1 of the Council,[219] provided a basis for intergovernmental integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields;

(b) Took into account the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General that the United Nations system be encouraged to enhance national capacity efforts for data collection and analysis,[220] as well as the dialogue that took place during the Council's session on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits, held from 13 to 15 May 1998;

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[214] E/1998/56.

[215] E/1998/73.

[216] A/53/16 (Part I).

[217] E/1998/21.

[218] General Assembly resolution 51/240, annex.

[219] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.

[220] E/1998/19, sect. III, recommendation (ix).

(c) Recognized that Governments had the primary responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of conference outcomes, while the United Nations system had an important role to play in support of such national efforts, in particular those of developing countries;

(d) Recognized the need to start, on a step-by-step basis, an intergovernmental process on how to better address the need for relevant indicators to monitor the implementation of all aspects of conference outcomes at all levels;

(e) Decided to hold an informal meeting of the Council with panels of experts immediately after the Council's resumed organizational session for 1999, of one to two days' duration, to consider in a comprehensive manner the work being carried out by the United Nations system and other relevant international and national institutions on basic indicators to measure progress towards the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up of all aspects of major United Nations conferences and summits, including means of implementation, in the economic, social and related fields at all levels, with a view, as a first step, to taking stock and identifying overlapping duplication and gaps;

(f) Also decided that the informal meeting should have an interactive format so as to encourage dialogue among the participants and delegations, which dialogues should be summarized by the Secretariat;

(g) Requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this matter, pursuant to subparagraph (a) of the present decision, which should be distributed well in advance of the meeting;

(h) Requested the Bureau of the Council, in consultation with the Secretariat, to establish arrangements for the meeting, securing a balance with respect to the participation of panellists from both developed and developing countries.

1998/291

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with economic and environmental questions

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States;[221]

(b) Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-second session;[222]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on consumer protection and guidelines for sustainable development;[223]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters;[224]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225;[225]

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[221] A/53/65-E/1998/5.

[222] E/1998/34, Supplement No. 14.

[223] E/1998/63; see also E/CN.17/1998/5.

[224] E/1998/57.

[225] A/53/173-E/1998/87.

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Fourteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance;[226]

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;[227]

1998/292

Freedom of movement and population transfer

At its 47th meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/106 of 17 April 1986[186] and resolution 1997/29 of 28 August 1997 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, approved the Commission's recommendation that the report of Mr. Awn Al-Khasawneh, Special Rapporteur on human rights and population transfer, be published and widely disseminated.

1998/293

Consideration by the Economic and Social Council of draft recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth session

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Invited the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to provide updated information on its requests, as contained in draft decisions I, II, III and IV recommended by the Committee at its sixteenth session;[228]

(b) Took note of General Assembly decision 52/463 of 31 March 1998, by which the Assembly would consider the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations at its fifty-third session;

(c) Decided that no action was required on draft decision IV since the dates for the meeting requested had passed.

1998/294

Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with social and human rights questions

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following reports:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for action;[229]

(b) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;[230]

(c) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[231]

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[226] E/1998/77.

[227] E/1998/47.

[228] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 2* (E/1998/22), chap. I.

[229] E/1998/53.

[230] A/53/36 (Part I).

[231] E/1998/7 and Corr.1.

(d) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Social and human rights questions: implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination";[232]

(e) Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions;[233]

(f) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.[234]

1998/295
Dates of sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council in 1999

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 1997/301 of 24 July 1997, in which it approved the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998 and 1999 in the economic, social and related fields, approved the following changes in the dates of sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Council in 1999:

(a) Inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working groups of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to meet at Headquarters from 22 to 26 February and from 1 to 5 March;

(b) Commission on the Status of Women, forty-third session, to meet at Headquarters from 1 to 19 March;

(c) Commission on Population and Development, thirty-second session, to meet at Headquarters from 22 to 30 March;

(d) Commission on Human Rights, fifty-fifth session, to meet at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 22 March to 30 April;

(e) Commission on Science and Technology for Development, fourth session, to meet at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 17 to 21 May.

1998/296
Development account

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 31 July, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolutions 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and 52/235 of 26 June 1998, as well as the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[235] looked forward to the outcome of the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the development dividend[236] under section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

1998/297
Request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 5 August 1998, the Economic and Social Council, having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the privileges and immunities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers,[237] considering that a difference had arisen between the United Nations and the Government of Malaysia, within the meaning of section 30 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[238] with respect to the immunity from legal process of Dato' Param Cumaraswamy, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers, and recalling General Assembly resolution 89 (I) of 11 December 1946:

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[232] E/1998/51.

[233] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 2* (E/1998/22).

[234] E/1998/84.

[235] ST/SGB/PPBME/Rules/1 (1987), as amended by General Assembly resolution 42/215.

[236] E/1998/81.

(a) Requested on a priority basis, pursuant to Article 96, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 89 (I), an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal question of the applicability of article VI, section 22, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in the case of Dato' Param Cumaraswamy as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers, taking into account the circumstances set out in paragraphs 1 to 15 of the note by the Secretary-General, and on the legal obligations of Malaysia in that case;

(b) Called upon the Government of Malaysia to ensure that all judgements and proceedings in that matter in the Malaysian courts were stayed pending receipt of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which should be accepted as decisive by the parties.

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Themes for the 1999 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 5 August 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided on the following themes for its 1999 substantive session:

High-level segment

"The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women"

Coordination segment

"Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development"

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[237] E/1998/94 and Add.1

[238] General Assembly resolution 22 A (I).